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TREATISE

ONTHE

IMPROVEMENT

OF

MIDWIFERY,

CHIEFLY WITH

Regard to the OPERATION.

To which are Added,

Fifty-seven CASES, Selected from upwards of Twenty-seven Years Practice.

The THIRD EDITION, with Large Additions and Improvements.

Imbellished with COPPER-PLATES.

By EDMUND CHAPMAN, SURGEON.

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TO

Dr. E. Mikward.

SIR,



S You was pleased to allow me the Liberty of paying You my Respects in this Manner, on

the Publication of my Performance, when only an Essay, and consequently less A 2 worthy

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worthy of the Name, which appeared at the Head of it; I take the same Liberty of Presenting it to You a second Time, and hope I may venture to say, I now offer You a Complete TREA-TISE on this Subject.

It would be ungenerous and unjust to desire a Worthy and Learned Friend to apologize for the Mistakes and Faults of a Writer; as well as vain and highly unreasonable to expect any Name should screen him from Censure. But, while I submit my Performance to the

the Judgment of the World, give me Leave, SIR, to make this Publick Acknowledgment of your many Favours; and particularly That invaluable one of, under God, Preserving Mine and my Son's Life. I am,

SIR,

Your most Obedient, and

Most Humble Servant,

ED. CHAPMAN.

Los College

. War and Gilliam . The said

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THE

PREFACE.

Published on this Subject have been calculated chiefly for the Instruction of my own Sex, I was induced to write this TREATISE principally for the Use of the Other, to whom the Majority of Practice

in this important and difficult Profession is committed, that they

A 4 may

may be cautioned to fend for Affistance, when necessary. I flatter myself, however, that those worthy Gentlemen, who are engaged in it, but have not yet had sufficient Experience of that great Variety of Cases which daily occur, will not find the following Pages entirely useless.

I HAVE frequently, during the Space of above Twenty-seven Years Practice, seen many fatal Mistakes committed by Midwives, which I think could never have happened, had they ever read a Treatise so well adapted to their Capacities, and at the same time so full and plain, as I hope, the Following is.

My greatest Aim in it, is, faithfully to instruct, not Such as are quite ignorant, but Such as have already made some Progress in the Science, and to point out to them those dangerous Rocks on which many have been loft; that they may either be able to give better Assistance themselves, or at least to see the Danger time enough to call in Superior Advice. LIFE is a Jewel, in the Opinion of all Mankind, of the greatest Value; and Those, to whose Care this weighty Trust is committed, cannot possibly discharge it with too much Circumspection and Diligence.

I AM far from attempting or defiring, with some of my Brethren, that the Practice of Midwifery should be confin'd only to my own Sex, and this for feveral Reasons. First, Because among so great a Number of Child-bearing Women, of all Degrees, a much greater Attendance is required, than we alone could poffibly give. Befides, where the Labour is natural, as it happens with most Women, there is seldom any greater Affistance necesfary than what those of their own Sex, who have been bred up to it, are capable of affording; especially in this Metropolis, where I have

I have met with several extremely well qualified. However, I must beg leave to give them this one piece of Advice, viz. That where any Difficulty occurs, they would readily in time call in our Affistance; as when a Child prefents with its Head, but does not, after a fufficient Trial, fall any lower; when the Posture happens to be Wrong, and consequently the Child requires Turning; but more especially that they would not delay to fend for a Man of Character and Experience in case of Floodings, or other Threatening Symptoms. By this, both the Patient's Life and their own Reputation will be the more secure. I deny

I deny not, but that many Women-Midwives may know how to Turn a Child, nor that they may, in some Subjects, perform it with Success. But then confidering the many unforeseen Difficulties that may happen, especially the Head's sticking against the Bones of the Pelvis, and that in spite of the greatest Care, and the most exact Position: I believe this Advice will not be thought impertinent by the most experienced among them, whom, by the by, I have ever found most ready to call in Superior Affistance. And, indeed, they find their own Account in it, as it greatly advances Their Character;

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racter; whilst it is far otherwise with Those, who, conceiving too favourable an Opinion of their own Judgment and Abilities, run great Hazards, or, at the best, call us in too late, and thus lose their Reputation and Practice.

MIDWIFERY is certainly
One of the most noble and useful
Chirurgical Operations in being.
For all Operations receive their
Weight from the Good they procure; or, to speak more properly,
from the Evil they prevent. By
This, when judiciously Performed,
there is generally One, and often
Two Lives snatched as it were
from the Jaws of Death; as in
a Vio-

a Violent Flooding for Instance, where the Mother, or Child, or Both, would be inevitably lost in a few Minutes, without Delivery: or where the Infant lies in a bad Posture, and so could never have been Extracted but by the Assistance of Art.

It is, indeed, possible to save a Child by the Cæsarian Operation, or Cutting it out of the Womb of its Mother just expired; but what Man in his Senses would put his Character upon this Footing? It would be natural for the malicious World to say, that, to save the Child, he killed the Mother; and the Friends and Others about

about the Deceased, either out of Fondness or Ignorance, might posfibly imagine, that she was not quite dead before the Operation was Performed. But to return. I say that by speedy Delivery Two Lives are oftentimes faved; as in the Instances above-mentioned, where, the Womb being released of its Burden, its Fibres are again contracted, and so the Flux stops; or where the Child is brought away by Art, and thus the Date of its own, as well as of its Mother's, Life is prolonged.

MANY other Instances might be given, where both Lives are actually saved. But the Dignity and

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and eminent Usefulness of this Art will appear to every Person in a much more advantageous Light, if we reflect on the Learning and Abilities of the Profesfors of it. England and France have produced many great and famous Men, who have made the Improvement of this Science the principal Business of their Lives; and we have Some at this time living, who are perhaps superior to the Deceased, without any Detraction from their Characters, or the least Indignity offered to their Ashes.

THE Improvements these great
Men have made in MIDWIFERY,
the

the Tenderness, the Compassion and Success with which they performed their Duty, have effectually removed that Load of Ignominy, with which this Profession was formerly branded.

IT must be acknowledged, there have been Some who, being ignorant of the Method of Turning a Child, made frequent use of the Hook and Knife, and several other shocking and barbarous Instruments, even while the Child was Living; and I had, not long since, an Account given me by a Person of unquestionable Veracity, then present, that a poor Woman died under the Hands of the Operator after some of the Limbs

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Limbs and Ribs of the Child were brought away.

FROM such Operators as these (cruel in their Behaviour, indecent in their Expressions, and breaking in upon the Modesty and Tenderness peculiar to the Sex) the Odium cast upon this Art had its first Rise. And hence it proceeds, that many unhappy Women have chosen to Die, or at least to stay till the very last Extremity, rather than call for our Assistance.

But the Case is now far otherwise. The best Midwives commonly send for Advice upon the Appearance of Danger; the Suffering Fair readily consent to it, and by this Means both the Child's and Mother's Lives are faved, the *Midwife*'s Character fecured, and *Ours* advanced, by the Success that usually attends our being called in time.

I HAVE in this Treatise purposely omitted the Description of the Parts concerned in Generation, because it has already been so well given by Others, that I could do but little more than Copy them. Besides, I think that Such, as never saw the Dissection of a Human Body, will not be much improved by a bare Description of those Parts; much less would they receive any Advantage from the Cuts and Fi-

gures usually prefixed to Books of this Kind, which are generally but very indifferently done, and serve to raise and encourage impure Thoughts in the Reader's Mind, rather than to convey any real Instruction.

already extant in our Language have, in my Opinion, written in a very improper Style, and their Works seem to be calculated at least, as much to please the Reader's Fancy, as to improve the Operation. My Design, on the contrary, was to compose such a Treatise as One of either Sex might read without a Blush, and to express myself in such a Manner

PREFACE. xxi as would not give the least Offence

to the most modest Reader.

THE Use of Hooks and some other Instruments, by which Living Children, Presenting with the Head, are destroyed, when they might very eafily have been Extracted in a few Minutes by the Fillet or Forceps, is, in my Opinion, a most cruel and unwarrantable Practice. But yet, however inhuman, it is, to my certain Knowledge, by Some kept up to this Day. A fond Mother in this City lately told me, with a Flood of Tears, that This was her unhappy Case. The Child had lain long with its Head in the Vagina, and so low that the Midwife then attend-

B 3

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attending had expected it every Pain for fome Hours. At length One of my Brethren was called in, but, not understanding the Use either of the Forceps or Fillet, and unwilling to kill the Child, he for fome time forbore to be concerned; but, the poor Woman's Torture and Danger increasing, he at length fixed his Hook in the Head; and so Extracted it, but, to the great Surprize of the Operator, and Sorrow of the Mother, it was Living before that Attempt.

I CANNOT forbear, now I am on this Subject, to mention the following Account, which I received from the Surgeon who

was confulted, one of good Character in his Profession, and now Living in this City. He told me he had been lately called to a Gentlewoman in the Country, where the Child fell with its Head into the Vagina very low, and there continued, after a confiderable time passed in great Pain, without the least Advantage. A Man-Midwife upon this was fent for, who knowing the use of the Hook only, and being very unwilling to destroy the Child, let it remain in this Condition for feveral Days; refufing to perform the Operation, or to do any thing more for her than to Prescribe a few Forcing Medicines. At length a Woman-B 4 Mid-

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Midwife Delivered her of a Dead Child; but the Parts were, by the violent Inflammation, and the long continued Pressure, so far Mortified, that my Friend told me he had not the least Hopes of the Gentlewoman's Recovery when he first saw her.

How necessary is it then, that Men, who profess Midwifery, should make themselves Masters of either the Forceps or Fillet? For I now once for all declare, I have no Design of putting them into the Hands of Female Practitioners; the former of which I prefer, because I can pass it with more Ease to the Woman; and the Compression, caused by its Use,

Use, makes the Bones of the Head ride one over the other, and thus reduces it to a smaller Compass. To which may be added, that the Forceps gives me a much stronger Hold of the Child, and enables me to draw it with more Ease and Security. But here I must observe, that, as there are several different Sorts of Forceps, so they are far from being all equally proper; and great Regard is to be had to their Form. I once faw a Pair at a noted Instrument-Maker's, which I thought very faulty; and was shewn a Pair by a Brother Practitioner in the Country, which could not be used with either Success or Advantage; the Diameter of the Curve

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Curve being too large, and its Bows too short.

I HAVE in this Piece given a great Variety of Select Cases, which may ferve as Directions for others to proceed by in the like Circumstances. Indeed I have been the shorter in the Body of the Treatise itself, that I might have more Room to enlarge in the Cases. For it is my Opinion, that a Case, where all the Incidents are minutely related, will affect the Reader's Memory more, than the most exact Description of the same Thing in the Body of the Work.

WHEN I Published the first Edition of this Work, I thought myfelf, at least, the second Englishman, who had written professedly on the Subject. I have fince found I was mistaken. For Dr. John Mowbray has given the World a large Treatise, entituled The Female Physician, &c. with what he calls the Whole Art of new improved Midwifery, &c. That ingenious and laborious Author declares strongly against the Use of frightful Instruments, and in this I heartily join him; but cannot think the Forceps deserves that Appellation. As it is not sharper than the Hand, it may be introduced with all imaginable Safety,

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Safety, according to the Directions given in the Body of this Book. I can, from my own Experience, affirm it to be a most excellent Instrument, and so far from Hurting or Destroying, that it frequently saves the Mother's Life, and That of the Child, as will appear in the Course of this *Treatise*.

IF, by submitting myself to the Censure of Others, I should have the good Fortune to excite some more masterly Pen to improve this Art, it would much augment my Pleasure and Satisfaction, as I should thereby be in some measure instrumental in conveying a greater Good to my Fellow-Creatures.

THE Reception the first Edition of this Work met with from the best Judges has encouraged me to publish a Second, with confiderable Additions and Improvements. Some Persons, who thought they did Justice to the Performance itself, by allowing it very good and useful, have taken the Liberty to infinuate it was not my own. Now it might not be amiss to ask those candid Gentlemen, whence they can reasonably suppose I borrowed the Matter here delivered. Is it in the least probable, that the ablest Profesfors of the Art would compliment me with the Fruits of their Labours, and submit to see their Senti-

Sentiments and Instructions ushered into the World under the Name of a Person, incapable of Producing any Thing of his own? And that I have not this Obligation to any inferior Practitioner, is in a manner acknowledged by the Commendations bestowed on this Piece by my very Enemies; so that, on the whole, I am in no real Apprehension of being dispossessed of my Title to the Performance. I own I had fome Affistance in regard to the Diction; and did not fend my Papers to the Press till That was revised and corrected. This I know is no unusual Thing; and, if That be a Fault, I am so far from repenting of, and amending it, that I have fince

PREFACE. xxxi fince been guilty of it in a much greater Degree.

BEFORE I close this Preface, it may not, perhaps, be amiss to throw in some farther Additional Instructions. Therefore, immediately after Delivery, it will be proper to give a large Quantity of Nutmeg in a Glass of White-wine. At the fame time the Woman is to drink freely of White-wine Caudle and Chicken-broth; the Latter of which is more necessary after a great Loss of Blood. If she continues to have an immoderate Difcharge, her Caudle is to be made with Red-wine, instead of White. Moreover, just after Delivery, as foon as the is put to Bed, or, if Delivered

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Delivered in Bed, when laid to rest, a Piece of Flannel, dipt in warm Rum or Hungary-water, is to be applied to the Abdomen; and to the Pudenda a Pultice of White-bread and Milk, Yolks of Eggs, and Hog's-lard. After a Hard Labour, more especially if she be suspected not to be perfectly Clear, recourse must be had to the following Mixture; vix.

R. Lap. Contrayerv. gr. xv. Pulv. è Chel. Cancr. Composit. gr. x. Castor. gr. v. Syr. Caryophyllor. q. s. M. F. Bolus statim sumend. & sexta quaque hora repetend.

In spurious Pains, a proper Quantity is to be given of Liquid Laudanum, and Oil of Cinnamon. In order to encourage Pain, the following will be of Service; viz.

B. Ol. Cinnamom. gutt. iij, vel iv.

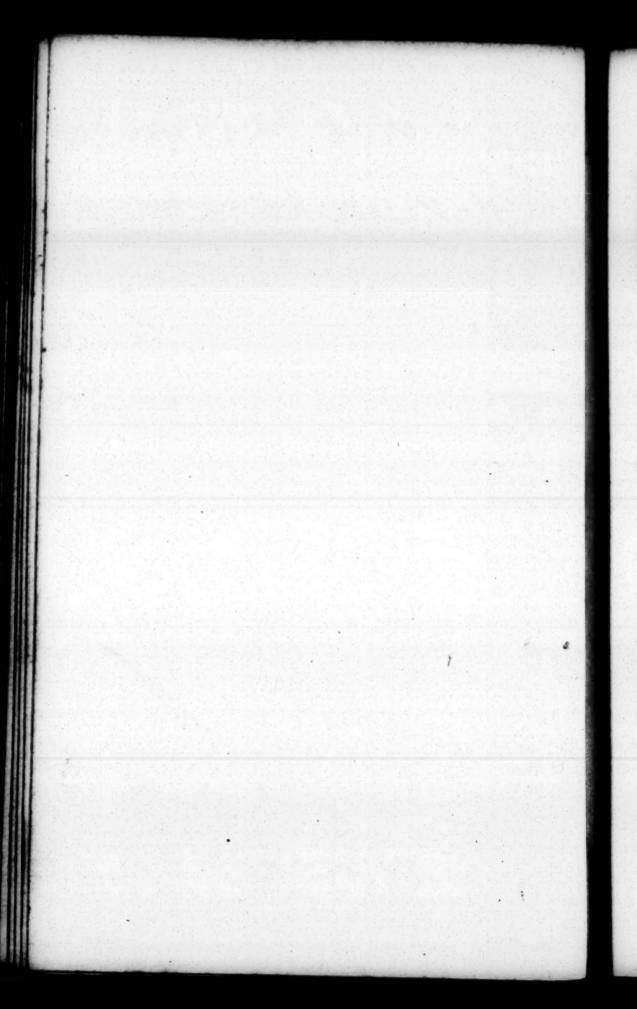
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Cap. in Haustul. Vin. & pro renata repetantur. Vel,

R. Aq. Lact. Alexet. 3vj. Mirabil. 3j. Syr. Caryophyllor. 3vj. Succ. Chermes 3ss. Ol. Cinnamom. gutt. x. M. F. Julapium, cujus cap. Cochl. iij. singulis horis.

In great Complaints, such as Fits, &c. in a Plethoric Habit, let Blood be taken from the Arm to Eight or Nine Ounces, and Anti-Hystericks be Prescribed, together with Laudanum, and Acids.







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The Measure and Dimensions of the Forceps, as inserted in this Edition, after Page 92, are as follow:

THE IR Length, in a Right Line,
Fifteen Inches. The Length of the
Bows from the Joint, where the two
Parts cross, to the Upper Extremity, in a
Right Line, Nine Inches and one Quarter. The Girt of the Bows, when shut,
is, in the widest Part, Eight Inches.

N. B. Fig. I. Represents one Part of the Forceps, Fig. II. the Whole, not quite shut. Fig. III. Represents the Pessary.



A

TREATISE

ONTHE

IMPROVEMENT

OF

MIDWIFERY.

INTRODUCTION.



Y Defign, in this Treatife, is to make some Advances or Improvements in the great and useful Art of Delivering

Women, with respect to the Operation itself; and to point out those Rocks on which

which many of the Fair-Sex are loft, and cut off in the Bloom of Life, amidst the joyful Hopes of an approaching Offspring.

As to the Anatomy or Description of the Parts destined to Generation, the Signs of Conception or Pregnancy, and those of Labour; the Manner how a Woman is to manage herself when with Child; how she is to be ordered after her Delivery; the proper Qualifications required in Midwifes; how Nurses are to order the Newborn Infants, and many other Particulars of the like Nature, mentioned by Doctor Chamberlen, Daventer, Dionis, and others, I shall purposely omit them; referring the Readers, who want Information therein, to the Authors here mentioned.

THE Diseases to which Women are subject, both before and after Delivery, as Vomitings, Diarrbaea's, Coughs, and Difficulty of Breathing; Pains in the Back, Reins, Hips, and Breasts; Difficulty of Urine,

Urine, Hamorrhoids, Pains and Varicage Swellings in the Thighs and Legs; the Menstruous Flux, Dropsy of the Womb, OEdematous Swellings in the Labia Pudendi, Bearing down of the Womb; Coftiveness, arising from the Fætus compressing the Intestines; a Prolapsus Ani, or Falling down of the Fundament; a Suppression, or too great a Flux, of the Lochia; Contusions and Dilacerations in the Perinaum and external Parts of the Pudendum: Convulsions, Hysteric Disorders, Fevers, an Inflammation in the Uterus, or Vagina; Abscesses in the Groin, Hips, or Thighs; Cancers and Schirrhosities in the Womb; Ruptures, Inflammations or Apostems in the Breasts, Curdling of the Milk, &c. Of these, I say, with many other that might be named, I shall take no Notice, but leave them to Physicians, whose Province it is to treat of them: my Aim in this Piece being not fo much to inform those who are altogether ignorant, by giving them Inftructions for their first setting

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out

out in Practice, as to add fomething to what is already published, chiefly with regard to the Operation; which, I hope, may conduce to the Benefit of the less knowing, and not prove altogether unworthy the Notice of those, who, being already arrived to the highest Pitch of Knowledge and Art, do Honour to their Profession, and Service to the World, by proving the happy Instruments (under Providence) of affifting and preserving the FAIR in the Time of their greatest Danger; and, by that Means, of faving many great and eminent Men, who otherwife could never have appeared on the Stage of Life, to do Service to their King and Country.

I SHOULD not have taken this Task upon myself, had those Gentlemen, who are better qualified for it, been pleased to favour the World with a Treatise of this Kind; the Want of which was the only Motive that induced me to under-

take the Publication of this; which is founded upon upwards of Twenty-five Years Practice and Experience, at South Halftead in Esex, and the adjacent Countries, and which I therefore hope will be serviceable, at least to every young Practitioner.

The chief Books on this Subject, extant in our Language, are Dr. Chamberlen's Translation of Mauriceau, and the Translations of Dionis, Daventer, &c. which I shall have occasion to mention hereafter; and shall only observe here, that the Secret intimated by Dr. Chamberlen*, by which his Father, two Brothers, and himself saved such Children as presented with the Head, but could not be born by natural Pains, was, as is generally believed, if not past all Dispute, the Use of the Forceps, now well known to all the principal Men of the Profession, both in Town and Country.

* See his Preface.

In his Note (p. 176.) speaking of the great Precaution that ought to be used for knowing whether the Infant be alive or dead, he says, "That it is not so necessa-" ry to those Practitioners who can fetch a Child coming right, or with the Arms, without Hooks, or sharp Instruments; as the Translator of this Book, his Father, and Brothers can."

Here is something very odd, methinks, in applying this Secret to both these Cases, as equally serviceable in either; the Cases differing so very widely, and requiring a quite different Method. For the Head, presenting and far advanced, is to be taken hold of either by the Forceps or Fillet, and by them extracted; whereas a Child, which presents an Arm, is to be turned, and so brought away by its Feet.

DAVENTER fets out with the specious Pretence of performing all by the Hand only, and professes in no Case to use an Instrument. This he all along carries on, till at length, in the Appendix, he tells us, " That if the Pelvis be propor-" tionably too small for the Child, or if " the Head of the Infant falls down into " the narrow Cavity of the Pelvis, and " is there fo streightned along with the " Shoulders, that the least Descent is " not perceived upon the Force of the " ftrongest Pains, and all Remedies have " been tried in vain; for the Safety of " the Mother, the Infant is to be hand-" led, and drawn out as a dead one."

THIS, indeed, is a Case which very rarely happens, and almost the only one that requires an Instrument; tho' even here, the *Head* may, for the most part, be commanded by the *Forceps*, of which he does not give the least Hint.

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THE Practice of drawing living Children with the Crotchet when the Head offers, but cannot, by reason of its Bigness, or fome Difficulty in the Passage, be brought away, which is still the Custom of some rash, pretending, Artists (who know nothing either of Returning the Infant, or of the Use of the Forceps or Fillet) ought to be utterly condemned and exploded by all fair and honest Practitioners. doubtless this barbarous Cruelty in some Operators, that, (as Dr. Chamberlen well observes *) has caused that malicious, but false, Report, That where-ever a MAN comes, the MOTHER, or CHILD, or BOTH, must necessarily die; and is the Reafon, many Times, of Women's forbearing to fend till the Child is dead, or the Mother dying. It shall be my Endeavour, in the following Pages, to prove, That Most Births may be performed without Instru-

^{*} See his Preface to the Reader.

ments, by the Affistance of the Hand only; or, where Instruments are really required, by the Help of the Forceps or Fillet, which are not only perfectly safe and innocent, but extremely useful, and in some Cases absolutely necessary.

But to return: As to the Obliquity, or ill Situation of the Womb, which Daventer makes so much mention of *, I frankly declare, I have never sound it to be any other than what follows; viz. That either the Mouth of the Womb lies high, and opens backwards, against the Os Sacrum, or Vertebræ, or else forwards, towards the Os Pubis. I have never yet discovered a Lateral Pointing, and am surprized to find this Author insist so much upon it; though it must be acknowledged he does not stand alone in this Point. Dr. Mowbray not only afferts this oblique Situation with an equal Positive-

^{*} Chap. XI.

ness, but is pleased to bestow some very rough Words on such as do not admit it *.

I SHALL not here undertake to enumerate the many different Postures displayed in Chamberlen, Daventer, and Others, for I cannot but think, with Dionist, that those Cuts which represent the different Situations of Infants in the Womb, in the Books of Guillemau, Mauriceau, and Others, are of very little Use; especially fince 'tis not by the Eye, as he obferves, but the Touch only, that an Artist must judge of the Posture. I shall only observe that a Child either presents with its Head, or it does not; if with its Head, Notice is to be taken whether the Posture be perfectly natural; i. e. whether the Face of the Child lies towards the Os Sacrum, or removed from that Figure, either fideways, or to the Os Pubis; for this, according to the Make of the Wo-

^{*} Sect. IV. Chap. XIII. + Preface, p. 7.

man (not as to the Figuration of the Womb, but the Structure and Confirmation of the Bones) is much to be regarded, and, accordingly, the Child is to be Returned, and drawn out by the Feet, or else allowed to advance in the Posture it lies in, and so be born with its Head first.

IF the Child offers any other Part than the *Head*, the Hand is to be passed gently into the Womb, the *Feet* to be searched for, the Child to be turned, and that Way to be brought forth without farther Delay.

But there is one Case to be excepted; viz. when the Child presents the Buttocks, and is advanced in that Posture, even beyond the Labia; it is then to be extracted as it lies: which I should chuse to perform by passing a Finger or two of one Hand, or, if possible, of both Hands, to the Groin, and thus bring the Child away, rather

rather than attempt the Feet. This, however, can be done only when the Child is small, or the Woman large. Otherwise the Woman is to be laid on her Back, with her Hips raised, and her Shoulders low, and then the Child to be Returned so as the Feet may be commanded.

To the First of these then, viz. A Child presenting with its Head.



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CHAP. I.

Of a Child presenting its HEAD.



F, after a sufficient Tryal of natural Pains, the Head still lies high, bearing against the Os Pubis; some Authors ad-

wise, when the Head presses upon that Bone, and cannot be stirred or returned by a Finger or two, that the Hand may be passed, the Head in some measure put back, and then lest again to Nature. But I cannot see why, the Hand once in the Womb, the Feet should not at the same time rather be sought for, than to hazard a needless Experiment, and at last be forced to make use of that Method.

NAY, if the Head be really fallen into the Vagina, it may, in many Women, be Returned with much Ease and Sasety both to the Mother and Child, as I have often experienced. But when the Head has lain for some time low, when the Pelvis is small, (whether the Position of the Face be right or wrong) when the Parts are close compressed, and the Head is not to be Returned, when there is no Room for the Hand to pass, when the natural Pains are of little or no Service, and the Child still living; to bring it away, I say, in this Case, is a Matter of the greatest Nicety and Difficulty.

INDEED there can be no Certainty of the Child's being Dead, whilst the Skin of the Head is whole and firm, and no Putrefaction or Cadaverous Smell perceived. But by passing the Hand to the Navel-String, as near the Navel as possible, if That has lost its Pulse, and you feel not the

the Navel-String be diminished, and become not only small, but also slabby, if you feel no Motion of the Heart between the Ribs, if the Tongue be soft, and without Motion, if the Bones of the Head move to and tro, and the Sutures ride, or wrap over one another, the Child is then dead beyond all Dispute. But this is not always to be known; and the Room requisite for doing this will generally allow of taking the Child by the Feet.

Symptoms of Labour, the Pains strong and true, the Head of the Child very low, and bearing forcibly down, every Pain; yet the Os Tincæ shall be but very little dilated, and that after many Hours strong Pain. Here nothing more is to be done, than with the Finger to dilate, and thrust back the Ring or Circle, if I may so speak, which the Os Tincæ, now very thin, makes upon the Head of the Child.

This was the Case of a poor Woman some Years past, to whom I was called. She had been many Hours in Labour, in the Beginning of which the Waters broke, the Head of the Child lay in the Vagine, fo low in the Pains, that the unskilful Midwife (who had never touched the Mouth of the Womb, which, as it generally does in this Case, lay more than ordinarily backwards) had given Hopes of Delivery the very next Pain. Here I did no more than with my Finger dilate and cast back the Ring of the Os Tinca, and fo in a few Minutes released the poor Infant, which was near fpent by its fruitless Efforts, and streightned Lodging; the Waters having been long loft, and the Pressure on the Infant very great, especially in the Pains.

But to return to the Method of faving a Child whose Head presents, and lies fixed in the Pelvis, and must of Necessity be born that way.

This can be done but two Ways, viz. Either by slipping a Fillet over the Hand, in such a Manner as to extract the Child thereby, which I have oftentimes done with great Success, or by taking hold of the Head with the Forceps. It is to be observed, that Neither of these can be used, if the Head does not lie very low, nor is their Use to be otherwise attempted.

The former of These I must beg leave to be silent in, as being entirely an Invention of my own; not but that I have been told since the first Publication of this Treatise, that This is so far from being an Invention of mine, that the Fillet is generally, or, at least, very frequently employed. I own, indeed, that it may be commonly used in Turning a Child, by securing one Foot with it, as I have directed; but do not believe the Manner of passing

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it over the Head to be so universally known and practised.

As to the Forceps, which, I think, no Person has yet any more than barely mentioned, it is a noble Instrument, to which many now living owe their Lives, as I can affert from my own Knowledge and long successful Practice.

This Instrument, though not pointed, must yet be used with Caution. You are first to pass one Part thereof above, gently introducing it, and guarding and directing the Bow as far as you can, with all the Fingers of the lest Hand, the Instrument lying in the Hollow of the Hand, being earoful that no Fold or Part of the Vaginas get between the Instrument and the Head of the Child, which would at once hinder any Hold of the Head, (and consequently foil you in the Attempt) and bruise the Part that intervenes. But a little Care will easily prevent This.

ONE Part thus passed over the Head, and under the Os Pubis, the other is to be passed over the Os Sacrum; and thus a Laceration will be avoided. When Those are passed, they are then to be brought close together, and, if you please, the Screw may be put through, and sastened with the Button, though there is no Occasion for the Loss of so much Time. For, without doing This, the Hand will prove sufficient to keep them together; and thus you may extract the Head, by drawing it gently down.

It is much better, as I have just observed, that the two Parts of the Forceps should not be joined or fixed by a Serew, the Hand being sufficient, and that for these Reasons. First, because when they are screwed together, though they should not happen to be exactly opposite to each other, yet they will turn so as to take fast Hold of the Infant's Head, and readily extract it. Secondly, In case one of the

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Parts

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Parts should slip, it is then easily returned to its proper Post, without being taken wholly away: Whereas, when they are screwed together, and then slip off on one Side, (which I have often experienced, in spite of the greatest Care I could use) the Instrument is to be repassed, and screwed as at first. They have oftentimes slipped, and, when I expected the Head of the Child, I have been deceived, and found the Handle Part come close, the Instrument only in my Hands, and the Work all to do over again. I have always found the Instrument far less apt to slip, fince I omitted fastening the Parts together; and with more Ease to the Patient, as well as myself, and in much less Time than before, have found the Head of the Child fairly fixt in the Instrument; that is, between the two Parts or Bows: fo that, in a few Seconds of a Minute, I have had the Child's Head with the Instrument, after which little or no Difficulty remains. Thus have I Delivered several Women finee my coming

find mentioned in the Cases at the End of this Treatise. And Mr. Giffard, in Case XIV, and elsewhere, frequently complains that his Extractor slipt, which I am fully persuaded it would not have done, if the Parts had been lest unjoined, as I now use them.

I no ingenuously confess, that I came by this Hint and Improvement by mere Accident, as, I believe, is frequently the Case in Discoveries of the greatest Importance. For many Years my Forceps happened to be made of so soft a Metal as to bend or give way, or suffer some Alteration in their Curve. They were made, as usual, with the Screw fixed to one Part or Side of them. These I used for some Years; but they often happening to slip off sideways, as before mentioned, my Opinion of the Instrument was so much lessened, that for many Years after I used it but seldom, and even not once in the Space of Ten

Years. During which Time, when the Child could not be Turned, I employed the Fillet only. This I freely communicated to a very ingenious Practitioner, now living in the Country, who will, I doubt not, readily remember it upon reading this. At length, I caused another Fair to be made me, of better Metal, and fome other Improvements; the Screw Part being contrived to take out, and not fixed, as in the former. This Screw I happened to lose in the Cloths at the Delivery of a Woman, who, with her Child, is now living, and in Health in Town; and being fent for to another presently after, and being indeed forced to make the Trial, found that the Instrument did its Office much better without the Screw, or the two Parts being fixt.

ALL I can say, in Praise of this noble Instrument, must necessarily fall short of what it justly demands. Those only, who have used it, and experienced the Excelcellency

lency of it to their own Advantage, and the Security of their Offspring, can be truly sensible of its real Worth. As I think myself in Duty bound to recommend it strongly to the Gentlemen of my Prosession, I shall omit no Opportunity of endeavouring to do it Justice. The following Letter was sent me by a Gentleman, who had been recommended to me, for Information in the Art, by a Surgeon of the first Rank and Eminence; and has since-practised with great Success and Applause.

SIR,

"IF you please to remember, about "a Week after I came into the "Country, I acquainted you that I was "called to a Woman in Labour, where the "Child presented with the Head far advanced in the Vagina, with the Os Uteri "artending. I Delivered her with the Forceps; and neither the Mother nor the "Child received the least Injury. Since F 4 "that

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"that Time, I am come into such Credit, that I am frequently called in twice
or thrice a Week; and, I thank God, I
have not as yet met with the least Missue hap. Our Midwifes here are pretty
dexterous; but, when the Head falls so
as to require the Use of the Forceps,
they are at a loss. I do not wonder
that Dr. Chamberlen became so eminent
in Midwifery, when he had so useful
and so safe an Instrument to practise
with.

"I have had two Cases, in which I was obliged to Deliver Feetways; the Heads of the Insants not offering directly right for the Instrument. I therefore thought it the best Way to search for the Feet, and succeeded very well. All the rest I Delivered with the Forceps. I must once more beg leave to express my Gratitude for the candid and ingenuous Directions you gave me, during the Time I had the Pleasure of being

" tulate you on your Success, thank you

" for the two Cases you sent me, and am,

S 1 R,

Your most obliged

Humble Servant,

Lutterworth, Oct. 30, 1734.

JOHN PAGE.

And here I cannot forbear testifying an uncommon Surprize at Dr. Mowbray's Method of treating this admirable Instrument, which he takes the Liberty of representing as a barbarous Invention for Sacrificing the Child, in order to save the Mother's Life +; and ranks it with the Hook, and other really barbarous Tools, calculated for Extracting the Insant Dead or Alive, Whole or in Pieces. His Pathetical Exclamations, which make so pretty a Figure on this Occasion, might have

† Sect. V. Chap. XIX.

the true Manner of using the Forceps. I am not assaid to say he was really ignorant in this Particular; when I find him talking of Braining the Child*, and then Drawing it forth with the Forceps; whereas it is evident, from the Directions here laid down for its Application, that it is to compress the Parts of the Head so as to Extract the Infant with Ease and Safety, and that no Use can be made of it when the Child is Brained, as he elegantly words it; but that, when it can be introduced, it effectually prevents that dismal Accident.

THE same Gentleman is pleased to declare elsewhere + against all Instruments in general, " in all Conditions of "Births, whether Natural or Preternatu-" ral, Dead or Alive," and declares that " in all Cases the Hand is solely obliged,

^{*} Ibid. + Sect. V. Chap. XXVI.

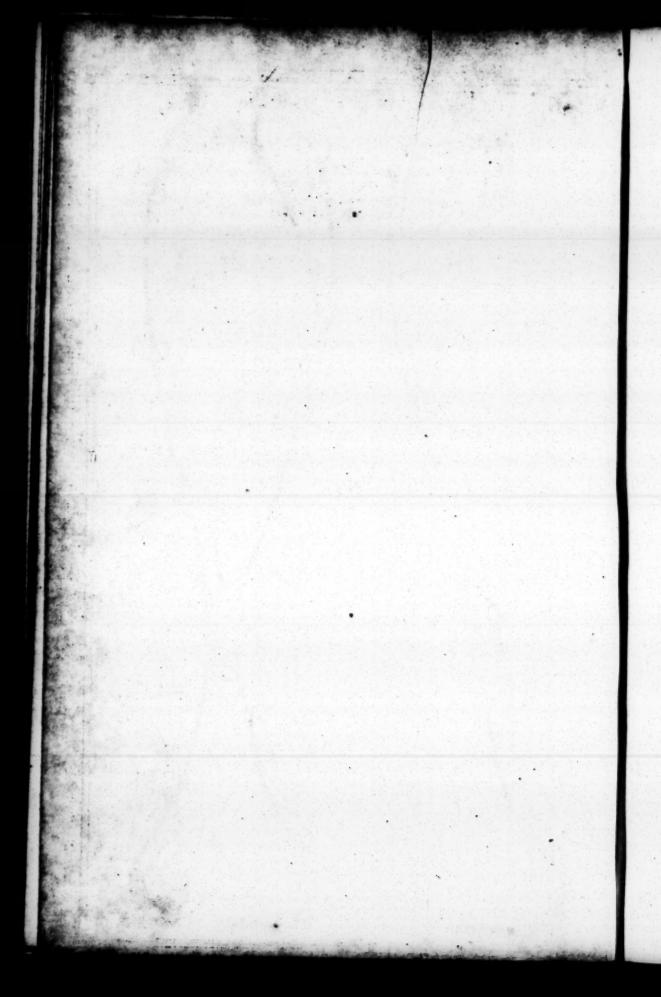
" and only best serves, according to the "Rules of his Profession, to discharge " the Duty of all the Instruments in the "Surgeon's Shop; excepting only in the "Case of a Monster, or a very Hydropical "Child." But, I do not apprehend that any Thing, advanced by this Author against that excellent Instrument here recommended, will be allowed much Weight to its Prejudice; since, as it appears, he was unacquainted with the true Use of it.

I MUST acknowledge myself short, in not giving the Figure of my Forceps in the former Edition. I was not indeed so thoroughly sensible of this Defect, till I found my Essay honourably mentioned by a Learned Society established at Edinburgh for the Improvement of Physic and Surgery, in the Medical Essays and Observations, &c. Vol. III. Art. XXXI. As these Gentlemen, by saying I have not given a Description of the Instrument,

as I used it, seem to infinuate that something is wanting to render this Work more complete and fatisfactory; I have now subjoined an exact Draught of my Forceps, which is very little different from That used by the late Mr. William Giffard; and which I apprehend too of a Make preferable to Those represented Table V. of the Medical Essays, &c. as taking better Hold of the Child's Head than can be done by an Instrument, whose Curves are broad, and not divided and formed into a Sort of a Ring, as in the Figure here exhibited; in which the most protuberant Parts of the Head lie naked: whereas, in the Extractors last mentioned the Whole is covered, and the Instrument of course takes up more Room.

But to return. When it is past all Dispute that the Child is really *Dead*, and the Women about you are fully convinced of it, then, indeed, the Child, lying thus, may

Page 92.



be drawn with the Crotchet. But here great Care is required to introduce it against your Lest Wrist, and in the Hollow of the Hand; (which must be first passed, and laid upon the Head) and then so to fix and guard the Point of it, that it may not slip and wound the Woman; keeping the Lest-Hand all the Time up, and upon the Head, till you have it born so far, as to be secure if the Hook should chance to break the Hold.

I SOMETIMES USE a Blunt Hook, which when placed opposite to the Hand, and passed beyond the Head, will often take so much Hold of it, when it lies extremely low, as to do the Business. Though, even in the Case of a Dead Child, the Forceps is preferable, and may be used with great Ease and Sasety. Here, when it will do, you abate of that prodigious Care required in the Use and Management of the Sharp Hook.

I WOULD of all Things advise the Operator to be particularly cautious in his Enquiry whether the Infant in the Womb be Dead or not; if he chuses to employ the Hook, or the Child does not lie low enough for the Use of the Forceps, and the Parts are fo streightened, that he cannot easily Turn it; for there have been many deplorable Instances of Infants that have been drawn out this way as Dead, whilft they have been really Living. Daventer himfelf tells us *, that he Delivered a Woman, as he thought, of a Dead Child, when, to his great Surprize, and beyond his Expectation, the miferable Infant, who had been but roughly used, filled his Ears with its Cries and Lamentations. Some Infants. as Dr. Chamberlen observes +, have been drawn forth Alive, after they have been thought to be Dead, with both Arms, or fome other Limb lopped off; and Others miserably killed with the Use of Crotchets.

^{*} Chap. XXXII. + Lib. II. Chap. XII.

On MIDWIFERY.

95 who might have been born Alive, if no Mistake had been committed. A Man therefore should use his utmost Endeavour not to be deceived, always remembring, with the above-mentioned Author, "That " Timidity is, in this Case, more pardon-" able than Temerity; and that it is better " to be deceived in treating a Dead Infant " as if it were Alive, than a Living one as " if it were Dead."

THIS Part being finished, I now come to the Second, viz. The METHOD of Turning a Child.



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CHAP. II.

Of the Method of TURNING a Child.



HIS is to be done in all Cafes whatfoever, except in That already treated of, viz. When the Head lies high, not yet

out of the Womb, or when low in the Pelvis, provided it lies so loose as easily to be Returned, and the Hand readily passed; as I have performed in many Women, with good Success. When early in Labour, or when, after considerable Pain, the Child does not fall down lower, the Artist is allowed to pass his Hand, and make a sufficient Enquiry; if he finds, I say, the Face of the Child turned towards the Os Pubis, it is much better to Turn the Infant, and bring it out by its Feet, than

to put the Labour upon the foot of Nature; fince this Method is much more fafe and eligible at first, than almost a Certainty of a tedious and hard Labour, with the Hazard of being obliged to have recourse to it last; or than after a long Continuance of the most acute Pains, accompanied with the Perplexity of a tedious Waiting, the Head at length fallen into the Pelvis, to be obliged to affift Nature by the Art treated of in the First Chapter. Nay, which way foever the Face lies, if the Head does not fink lower. by the Force of true and strong Pains, but hangs as it were above, and presses upon any Part whatever, the Hand, to avoid all puzzling and useless Distinctions, should be passed, the Feet sought for, and the Child by them drawn away. I shall be very full and clear on the Manner of performing this in its proper Place.

THUS, I say, a Child, Presenting with its Head, is often to be Turned, and Deli-

vered with the Feet first; in all other Postures whatever, always with the Feet first; and always Turned, except when it Presents with the Feet, and Nature has saved the Artist that Labour, and the Mother the Pain; or in the Case specified in the Close of the Introduction.

In some Subjects, where the Head has been let down into the Vagina, but has not advanced with the Mother's Pains, I have very eafily and happily Returned it by gently preffing back the Head with the Hollow of my Hand, whilst my Fingers, stretched out, were within the Os Tinca; which, though not contracted with great Force upon the Child's Neck, stands in. nged of a little Affiftance. Thus having conducted the Head, till it is fairly in the, Pelvis, as it was before it fell down, I then. take the Infant by its. Feet, and so easily. Extract it. This I did once for a Woman, who was much terrified at the Name or Thought of an Instrument, and would. not allow of the Forceps, and, at the same time, fancied a Fillet would strangle the Child. I then told her, I would endeavour to Deliver her without Either of them. Accordingly, I put her in a proper Posture, and Delivered her as before directed, in a few Minutes, of a Living Child. But I would not advise This to be generally attempted, nor upon all Subjects. For the Head lying very low, and wholly in the Vagina, but, sticking there, is, with most Sasety both to the Mother and the Child, Extracted by the Fillet, or Forceps.

I SHOULD now proceed to the Manner of Turning a Child, but shall, in the first place, (that I may be the better understood, and set the Whole in one View, and in as strong a Light as I can, to the young Artist) mention some Particulars relating both to the Mother and the Insant, which often occasion much Difficulty in the Performance of it.

In regard to the Mother; The Streightness of the Vagina is frequently a great Hindrance; it being fometimes fo narrow, as scarcely to admit even a small Hand, though covered with Oil, Axungia, or the like. The small Dilatation of the Os Tincæ will also sometimes prove an Impediment, as will likewise the Waters having been long loft, by which means the Parts are rendered dryer, the Passages less slippery, and more contracted, and, consequently, less fit for the Egress of the Infant. Strong Pains too are oftentimes an Hindrance, when they have occasioned so much Loss of Strength, that the Woman can bear but little Fatigue. One or more of these Causes renders the Operation difficult and dangerous; but especially the Smallness of the Pelvis, and the more than ordinary Curve of it; the prominent Part of the lowest Vertebra * of the

^{*} Lowest Vertebræ of the Loins, and the uppermost of the Os Sacrum, and not the Os Sacrum alone, as Dr. Mowbray, Mr. Giffard, and others call

the Loins being so great, as to leave too little Space between That and the Os Pubis; in which Case it is with great Difficulty that the Hand can be introduced, and harder still to come at the Infant's Legs; especially if the Posture of the Child be against you. But the worst Hindrance of all is, when with great Pains you have Turned the Child, and brought it to the Head, (though in ever so right a Position, which is always to be regarded) it sticks there, and will not pass at all, or not without the greatest Difficulty.

This unhappy Make of some Women is the Cause of many terrible Labours. Some of the Sex are this Way so very unfortunate, that it is impossible for them to have a Child born without the

this Process. Also in some Subjects, the Os Pubis is of such a Formation, as to leave very little Space between it and the Vertebræ before mentioned. This Improvement I acknowledge I owe to that excellent Anatomist Dr. James Douglas, who has found the Parts thus disposed in a Dead Body; since which I have observed the same in another.

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Help of Art, or even with Art to have a Living one, unless the Child be extremely small made, if I may so speak, to suit with the bad Form of its Mother, and the too have an Artist with her very early in her Labour.

THE Make and Conformation of the Woman, as to her Bones and the Shape of her Body in general, but particularly as to the Parts concerned in forming the Pelvis, and not the Obliquity of the Womb, which Daventer lays the whole Stress upon, is the common Cause of bad Labours, and the Necessity of Art.

In regard to the Infant, the Difficulty of Turning a Child is more or less, according as the Feet lie at a less or greater Distance from the Mouth of the Womb; according as the Child turns with its Knees up towards its Belly, wholly bending that way; or as it bends backwards, with its Heels turned to the Back, and perhaps

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perhaps near the Head. In the former Posture, the Child more easily bends round, and the Feet are foon brought down into the Vagina; whereas, in the latter, it is bent with Difficulty, and the Feet are hard to be brought down. As, in some Subjects, the Child is Turned with the greatest Ease, and in very little Time; fo in others it is not to be performed without much Difficulty, and more In this, more Force is required, the Mother fuffers accordingly, and the Child is hazarded both as to its Life and Limbs. Another Difficulty, arifing from the Child, is the Largeness of it, when it is too big for its Mother, either by a natural Make, or by its being Dropfical, in the Head, or any other Part. But to come to the Matter in hand, namely the Manner of Turning a Child.

THE first Thing to be done, is to lay the Woman in a proper Posture, viz. with her Shoulders very low, and her G 4 Hips

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Hips raised high, her Knees held up and kept wide asunder, and her Heels drawn up towards the Nates. Which Posture is absolutely necessary, when any Part of the Child is to be Returned; and always the best: Though sometimes I have, in a well-made Woman, performed the Operation as she lay on her Side. In this Posture the Womb, with the Child, will fall back by its own Weight, the Child will be more eafily Returned, if yet in the least advanced, and the Hand may be paffed with more Ease and Expedition, which is now gently to be introduced, being first anointed with Oil, Pomatum, Axungia, or fomething smooth and slippery, to facilitate its Passage.

This being done, it will be easy to perceive what Part offers first. If it be the Breast or Belly, unless the Child bends backwards with its Legs turned behind, you will soon find the Knees. Whatever the Posture is, you are, with as little

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Force as possible, to search for the Feet. When you have found one, the great Toe thereof will foon fatisfy you to which Foot it belongs, whereby you will be directed on which Side to fearch for the other. If it should lie so near that you can get the Feet close together, it is best, if possible, to take them Both between your Fore and Middle Fingers, one placed behind above the Heel, and the other upon the Instep; I say, if you can command Both: and then draw them down into the Vagina (which, the Toe being towards the Child's Belly, in a Woman well made, I have often done) so low, that you may add the Affistance of the other Hand. It is much the best to secure Both Legs; but when I could get only one, without giving the Mother too much Pain, and have found the remaining Leg lying towards the Infant's Belly, I have brought the Child away by one Leg, with the additional Affistance of two Fingers in the Groin, when the Child

was so far advanced, as to allow it. In this Case it is more advisable to leave the second Leg in the said Posture, than to attempt advancing it; because, if it be not entirely brought down, but lest in the Passage, there will be Danger of Fracturing the Child's Thigh, and the Woman must endure more Pains; which once happened in my own Practice.

As foon as you have the Legs, you are to take them in a Cloth, and draw them gently down, ever observing that the Toes of the Child be turned towards the Mother's Back, that, when it comes to the Head, the Chin may not stick or hang upon the Os Pubis, as, with the Face turned that Way, it must do. If the Feet do not at first come this Way, the Child is gently to be Turned as you draw it, so that, before the Head arrives at the Bones, the Face may lie right. But even this Care will not, in some Women, prevent the Infant from sticking at the Head. As

the Child, being drawn gently, advances, you are to shift your Hands from the Legs to the Thighs, and, as soon as the Nates are discharged, you are then to draw no more at the Thighs but with a soft Linen Cloth round the Waist, and with Hold above the Hips, always being particularly careful, that the Force be not great enough to strain the Back of the Child.

The most unhappy Circumstances that occur in this Way of Delivery proceed either from a disproportionate Largeness of the Head, or from its being more Ossified than ordinary; for the Heads of some Children are much more firm and Ossified than others. (And hence, by the by, we may see the great Use of the Fontanelle, or Opening of the Bones of the Skull in Infants, that the Bones may by that means ride as it were over one another in the Birth, and so lessen the Magnitude of the Head, for

its easier Exit.) Or from a Streightness of the Passage, for which Reasons the Head sticks at or upon the Os Pubis, and the protuberant Part or Process of the lowest Vertebræ of the Loins beforementioned. But to return: I fay, the Child is to be drawn gently down, till advanced to the Arm-pits, or thereabouts, when the Arms are to be fetched one at a Time, by the Fingers of the Hand on that Side; then a Finger or two of the Left Hand is to be put into the Infant's Mouth, whilst the Child is gently drawn with the Right, stirring the Head a little to and fro, that it may pass quick; by which means, with the joint Concurrence of a little Help at the Mouth, (all the other Part of the Left Hand, and part of the Right drawing down, and the Fore and Middle Fingers moving the Head a little) the Operation is generally performed with small Pain to the Mother, and manifest Safety to the Child. When the Child is advanced to

On MIDWIFERY. 109 the Head, it is more proper for the Woman to be turned on her Side, because thus the Left Hand has more Freedom, and there is then no Pressure on the Point of the Os Coxygis.

I HAVE Turned fome hundred Children, now living, and several of them advanced to an adult Age. Indeed at my first setting out, and for some Years after, this Operation often proved difficult to me, even in those Cases which I now can, and have upwards of twenty Years last past been able to perform with great Ease; which shews, that in this, as in all other Arts and Manual Operations whatever, much Practice and Care are required in every Practitioner, who would arrive at the perfect Mastery of it.

I WOULD be far from being thought to advance, that the Turning of Children is equally easy in all Postures; for it is far otherwise. Thus, when the Navel Mavel Presents, the Feet indeed are easily and readily found, and the Child is bent the right Way; but when the Shoulders or Spine happen to come first, the Feet lie far out of the Way, and, even when come at, are not without great Difficulty brought forwards; and, if drawn backwards, are ill-setched down, and both the Mother and Child suffer greatly. Much more Force or Violence is in this Case required, and the Artist himself has but a hard Task.

An Arm Presenting, and advanced as far as the Axilla, or Arm-pit, is not to be Returned, but the Hand is to be passed, (which, as Daventer justly observes *, is often found to penetrate with more Ease when the Arm hangs down, than when the same is thrust back again) and the Feet to be sought for; which when

^{*} Midwifery improved, p. 194.

found, the Arm, though it were to be wished it was not fo fallen, will prove no very great Hindrance in Turning the Child. Hence we may fee, that the old Way of Cutting * or Twisting off + an Arm thus advanced, and not to be Returned, which was always formerly attempted, is but bad Practice; though of the two, I must confess the latter Way to be the best. Nor is there any Excuse for the Folly of dipping the Infant's Hand, thus hanging out of the Womb, in Cold Water, rubbing it with Ice, or touching it with a wet Cloth, which some ignorant Midwives practife, in hopes that the Child, upon perceiving the Cold, will prefently draw. it in again; because the Child is so much compressed and streightened in the Passage by this vicious Posture, that it is imposfible for it to draw it in again. Besides, the Weight of the Infant's Body, which

+ Chamberlen's Mauriceau, p. 204.

^{*} Vid. Ambrof. Parei Op. Lib. xxiii. cap. 26.

bears downwards on the Arm, will effectually hinder it.

Some Writers advise, that the Infant should in this Case be fetched away by the Head. But This, as Dionis observes *, and as I myself have experienced, is impossible. Because the Os Tinca, or Mouth of the Womb, which is dilated but just enough to give way to the Child's Arm, will scarcely admit of the Operator's Hand, much less will it suffer the Infant's Head to pass. The same Author tells us +, that he Laid several Women in this Circumstance, and always succeeded when he Turned the Children, and brought them away by the Feet, as I have here directed; but that, whenever he attempted to do it by the Head, he had always a great deal of Trouble, and was fure to be disappointed at last.

* Pag. 229.

+ Id. Ibid.

I ONCE, as may be seen in Case xxv. delivered a poor Woman, where the Child's Arm had been eighteen Hours in the World, and much swelled by the long Time, and the Ignorance of the Midwise, who pulled violently at the Arm every Pain; not knowing, that it was altogether impossible to extract a full grown Infant by that Method. The Mother is still living, as also the Child, which is about seventeen Years old.

OPERATORS in Midwifery cannot posfibly be too cautious in the Use of Instruments, nor can they take too great Care in
informing themselves whether the Insants,
on whom they intend to exercise them,
are certainly Dead or not, as will appear
from the following miserable Instance.
There was lately living a Man, whose
Arm was thus cut off, before his Body,
or any other Part but that Arm, was
born, by a Surgeon and Man-Midwise

H lately

lately deceased, who, doubtless, took the Child for Dead. But finding it by its bleeding to be alive, which he did not in the least expect, he stopped the Flux of Blood, and the Child, as before-mentioned, lived to be a Man. But what a lamentable Prospect must it be to the Standers by, not to mention the poor tender-hearted Mother, to see a Child thus brought into the World a Cripple, with one Arm lopped off through Mistake!

But to proceed. I cannot by any Means allow the Arms to remain above, and so to be extracted with the Head, which was Daventer's constant Practice *. The Force to the Mother is thus rendered much greater, and the Hazard in regard to the Infant the same, if not much more. For the Head may thus

^{*}Pag. 230. In which he is followed by Dr. Mowbray, p. 265. Though the former owns he in this proceeds contrary to the Opinion of all Authors to him known; and the latter professes to act in direct Opposition to most Writers.

stick upon his Bones, and the Child's Neck be drawn, that is, the Vertebræ divided. The Arms can be no possible Security; for it is not, as Daventer advances *, that the Head is taken hold of by the Mouth of the Womb, by that fixed, and there kept up, but by the Bones. And I am surprized that the Author here mentioned should affert, the Child's Safety confifts in leaving the Arms to come with the Head, it being quite otherwise. For the Artist now drawing with greater Force, which is abfolutely required in this way of extracting, may be easily deceived; and that Moment when he expects the Child, he may draw its Neck: Whilst in the other Way, the Arms being down, he has the Infant's Neck in his Hand, and confequently can better judge of the Force used, and thereby be able to treat it with the greater Tenderness.

* Pag. 231.

SINCE, as I said before, the Head is as liable to stick upon the Bones, when the Arms are left, as when they are not; the Case, I think, is plain on my Side. But, to put the Matter beyond Dispute, I at one time, out of too great Regard for Daventer, took this Method, till I found what I mention, viz. that the Head of the Child, though the Face lay exactly right, might stick upon the Bones. For when, after the use of proper Strength, the Child was not born, as I had Reason to expect it would, I thought I found fomething give way, and suspected it to be the Child's Neck; upon which I forbore, and fetched down the Child's Arms, and found upon Examination that the Vertebræ were divided. I then put two Fingers of my Left-hand into its Mouth, and had the Head immediately. Now, had I continued drawing this Child, the Head would doubtless have been wholly divided from the Body;

Body; and must afterwards have been fetched away by itself.

THE Woman indeed had been for long in Labour, that the Child's Life was before despaired of; but had this Method been taken very early, and the Child been in full Strength, it would certainly have been the same. I shall only observe farther, that I returned to my former Practice, and from that time formed a Resolution never to hazard another Child this way; unless, which will fometimes be the Case, a small Child, and so a Part in Proportion, comes very eafily, and with the Use of little Force; for then I continue to draw gently, and find no Occasion to stop or fetch down the Arms. This is generally done when the Second Child, in Case of Twins, is taken by the Feet, immediately after the Birth of the First.

I HAVE before said, that it is best, if you can, to take Both the Feet at once between your Fingers; but this is not always, nor indeed very often, to be done. You may bring one Foot into the Vagina, then slip a Fillet with a running Noose above the Joint; this done, and the Foot secured, but not confined, you are to endeavour to find the other (to which that, already brought down, will be a Direction) passing your Fingers up to the Groin, unless the Foot meets you in the Way; and bring that down also.

THOUGH it is much the best Way to have Both the Feet, yet sometimes when with great Dissiculty I have had one only, rather than give fresh Pain to the Woman, already much fatigued before I came to her, I have sometimes lest the other Leg, and drawn the Child by one, observing to pass a Finger into the Groin,

when

when so far advanced; and this I have done with Safety. Nor have I ever had a Dislocation of the Thigh-Bone by this Means, or any consequent Lameness of the Part. But as the Force in this Case is greater to the Woman, it ought not to be done, if, without too much Pain, the other Foot can possibly be brought down.

In this way of Delivery, Care is to be taken that the Child lies as little in the Passage as possible, especially when far advanced, left it be loft, either by the Stagnation of the Blood in the Navelstring, now exposed in some measure to Cold, or by the Placenta being at this time so much separated, that very little Blood can pass from the Mother to the Fætus, so as to keep up the Circulation; for which Reason the Child must die, for want of receiving Air by the Mouth, to put the Lungs in Motion, and fo maintain the Circulation that way. Befides

fides, upon the Mother's account, who must needs be in great Pain, you ought to be as speedy in the Delivery as is confistent with Safety.

WHEN it appears necessary that a Child should be Turned, the sooner it is done, the better; before the Parts are much swelled, and become dry by the Loss of the Waters, and the Woman's Strength is too much exhausted.

When there are any of the Hindrances already mentioned in this Chapter, the Work will often prove difficult, and, with some Women, impossible. Yet where a Woman is well made, and the Vagina receives the Hand, where the Pelvis is large, the Bones smooth, and the Spirits not yet exhausted, it may be performed without much Pain or Delay. But when the Passages are narrow, and the Lowest Vertebræ of the Loins, and the Upper Vertebræ of the Os Sacrum,

Sacrum, jet so much forwards as to leave too fmall a Space between that Protuberance and the Os Pubis, it is extremely difficult to come at the Feet; and, in a bad Pofition of the Child, fometimes impossible, without too much Violence to the Woman. When the Membranes are not yet broken, as it happens to some who have been a confiderable time in Labour, or the Waters but lately loft, when the Child is not very large in Proportion to the Parts through which it must pass, and its Feet easy to be come at, the Knees lying upon, or near, the Belly; this Operation may be performed with great Ease by an Experienced Artist, with little Pain, far less than in common natural Labours, and perfect Safety both in respect of the Mother and Child.

I HAVE this way Delivered Numbers in a few Minutes, without Hurry, or the least Appearance of Haste or Rashness, and with a very little Pain; as many

many Persons can attest at, and several Miles round, Halsted in Essex.

Now, though I often turn Children which present with the Head, this is not to be understood of true natural Labours, in which, by the Force of genuine Pains, when the Woman is of a just Make, and the Child in a good Posture, the Head falling down into the Pelvis, and advancing a little every Pain, Nature itself will do the Work with common Affistance. This is indisputably the fafest and most happy Labour; and no one can well be ignorant what this common Affistance and proper Attendance is. Those, however, who are, may see it in Daventer, Mauriceau, Mowbray, and Others; my Defign being to treat of fuch Labours only as require ART.

WHEN there are Two Children in the Womb, or Three, (which once I met with)

with) after the First is born, I see no manner of Reason for, but against, waiting the Course of Nature, and the Force of the Mother's Pains. The Moment one Child is brought away, and given to those in waiting, the Artist is to pass his Hand, which may now be done without much Pain, and break the Membranes, if not yet broken, and so bring the other Child away by the Feet. This is a fafe and eafy Way, there being then Room to Turn the Child in whatever Posture it may chance to lie, without the least Violence to it or the Mother. No imaginable Harm, that I fee, can accrue from this Method; but the Woman will have a clear Womb, be immediately freed from Pain, and laid to Rest, and the Infant much more secure, than if it runs the Hazard of as tedious Stay, which is oftentimes protracted even to the Space of twenty-four Hours, or longer, between Child and Child. I am not a little pleased to find Dr. Mowbray agree with

me exactly in this Point, and advise this Manner of Proceeding, in almost the same Words used by me on this Occasion. "I "would fetch, says be, the second Child by the Feet, in case the second Flood- ing is not yet over, and That, notwith- standing the Head should present it's safelf first."*

On the contrary, the poor Sufferer, after she has gone through the Fatigue of one Labour, and That, perhaps, a very hard one, and is much spent for want of Rest, will, instead of that Resreshment and inexpressible Satisfaction that may arise from her Pain, Danger and Suspence being over, have them all continued and increased by a second Labour. Weak and harassed as she is, she must be still obliged to go through a fresh Conslict, with all its Accidents and Concomitants; which will greatly endanger her Health

^{*} Pag. 267. Where by the Flooding he must mean the Flowing of the Waters.

and Strength, and make a much longer Time necessary for her Recovery. But the worst of all, and which too often happen in this Case, are Floodings, which generally prove of fatal Consequence. But These shall be the Subject of another Chapter.

IT very often falls out, that, after the Birth of the First, the Second Child falls cross, or in some wrong Posture, and That after the Waters have been long loft, the Parts contracted, and the Woman has been much weakened. There is then an absolute Necessity of bringing the Child away by the Feet. How much better then would This have been done at first? Nor are the many Instances, that may be brought, of Women and their Offspring doing well, though there happens to be a confiderable Distance of Time between the Birth of them, a just Objection against this Method, all things duly weighed and confidered.

SOMETIMES, and very often, indeed, it falls out, that the Navel-String is twifted twice round the Neck of the Child; fo that when it advances in a right Position, and is born as far as the Shoulders, I immediately order the Woman next me on the Side I usually deliver the Child from me, which is the Left, to pass the Sciffars, carefully avoiding any hurt to the Child, under one of the Involutions, and cut the String, not fuffering the Child to advance any farther before this be done. For were the Infant to be wholly born, it would hazard the breaking of the String, possibly, and most likely at the Placenta, and thereby render the Extraction less easy; or, which is much worse, rudely tear off the Placenta, which should be cautiously and gently separated; or perhaps pull down the Fundus Uteri, and so invert the Matrix; which is a Case I have several Times met with, after the Practice of rough

rough and ignorant Midwives; which may ferve as a Warning to Others, how they pull at the String without a Hand in the Womb to separate and help to extract the *Placenta*.

Now, on the other hand, the Dividing of the String, as here directed, can be attended with no bad Consequence; for that Part of it which is left upon the Child may be easily held at the Extremity, or elsewhere, between a Finger and Thumb, by the Person in whose Lap the Child happens to lie, till, by Another, the String can be conveniently tied.

And here I have an Opportunity of observing, that most Midwives, especially in the Country, usually tie the String at too great a Distance from the Child's Belly, and thereby occasion a Weakness or Rupture of that Part; which, in Females, oftentimes proves of bad Consequence, especially when they come to

bear Children themselves. I am inclined to be of Opinion, that this is sometimes the Cause of Umbilical Ruptures; it seems to me at least to be no improbable Conjecture. However, I shall leave it to be determined by better Judges. It is very certain, that more than two Inches of the String itself from the Navel, which at this time generally jets out a little, is unnecessary; whereas I have commonly known Midwives leave Five or Six.



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CHAP. III.

Of the PLACENTA, or After-Birth.

HE Placenta, or After-Birth, by fome Authors called the Hepar Uterinum, is never to be left to be shut up in the Womb, whether the Labour has been natural, or not. And I have the Satisfaction of finding Dr. Mowbray recommending this Practice. " This, says be, is to be " done with all imaginable Speed after " the Child is born, even before the Na-" vel-String is cut; because the Womb " immediately contracts itself, so that " This cannot be accomplished afterwards, " without great Difficulty, p. 220." I never suffer the Womb to close before it is relieved of its Contents. For the Moment the Child is born, I slip my Right Hand into the Womb (at which time the Parts,

Parts, on account of their great Dilatation, will allow of it without Force or Pain) and gently with it affift in Extracting the Placenta. By this Method no Mischief can happen; but the Cake may, otherwise, so adhere to the Fundus Uteri, as not to be Extracted but with the Affistance of the Hand, which cannot afterwards be passed without great Trouble and fresh Pain. There may also be a False Conception in the Womb; nay even another Child, especially if it be emaciated.

This had been the Case of a Woman I once Delivered, now living at Halsted, had not I taken the Method here mentioned. For one Child was born by Natural Pains, and the Placenta, I found, would very easily have followed. But she, without my Assistance, would, in all Probability, have been put to Rest, with an emaciated Child in her Womb, and its distinct Placenta, which I sound, and immediately brought away.

My Method is, to give the Child away immediately, and pass my Right Hand, as before mentioned, to prevent the Uterus from closing on the Placenta. At which time the Woman, probably lying on her Side, is to be turned on her Back, that I may have the Advantage of the Pressure of my other Hand on her Body, for the more easy Extracting the Placenta. To prevent Cold, I order the String to be cut immediately, and its Extremity to be held. For there can be no Impetus in the Blood fufficient for forcing its Way in the Veffels, which may not be stopt by the least Preffure. Nor can I imagine, supposing it let go for a Minute, that the Loss of a small Quantity of Blood would be attended with any bad Consequence; perhaps, on the contrary, such a moderate Loss might prevent Convulsions, &c. But I leave This to the Consideration of better Judges.

" if the After-Birth in an Abortion, at the End of two or three Months, comes not away, it is not worth while to be concerned at it; for it is not big enough to occasion any mortal Symptoms." But I must beg leave to be of the contrary Opinion; as having in these Miscarriages frequently observed great and dangerous Floodings, and other bad Symptoms to arise from a Retention of the After-Burden. Nor would I advise any one to trust to its coming away of its own accord, or to leave the Expulsion of it to Nature, as this Author seems to hint.

But to return. A Midwife, who is not thus careful to introduce her Hand, but only takes what comes away of it-felf, may probably leave something behind, to the great Peril and Prejudice of the Woman. The remaining Pains are oftentimes impersect, and so pass under the Denomination of After-Pains, till a

bad

bad Fever is kindled, or Floodings are occassioned; Both which generally prove satal, and might have been prevented by this Method, which was also Daventer's, as may be seen in his Treatise*, and which I believe is the present Practice of the greatest Masters in the Profession.

No R are the Examples of many Women doing very well under the Management of such Midwives, as never to pass the Hand, any Objection to this Method, since No one was ever hurt by it, but Thousands on the contrary have suffered, nay died, by the Omission thereof.

It may be necessary, perhaps, in this Place to add a Word or two concerning the Operation itself. The Hand, as before directed, being introduced into the Uterus the Moment the Child is born, the Placenta, if already loosened from the

^{*} Chap. XXVIII.

Matrix, will eafily fall down into it, which must lie just within the Mouth of the Womb, and by that Means may be eafily grasped by one Hand, whilst you draw the String a little with the other. This will bring it down immediately: but before you do this, it is best, though the Cake does not adhere, to pass your Hand fo far, as to be affured that there is Nothing more remaining. If it does adhere, you are very gently, and by Degrees, to separate the Part from the Matrix with your Fingers, and, when loofened, draw the String gently, and keep all contained, as it were, before the Hollow of the Hand, in the Womb, leaving Nothing behind. This is to be done, if you are at the Birth of the Child; and, in case you are sent for after the Child is born, the Hand must then be introduced as here directed, and the same Method taken.

I HAVE often been called many Hours after the Birth of the Child, and when the String has been broken off at, or near, the Placenta. This indeed is a very great Disadvantage; not that the Navel-String, as some may imagine, is any Direction or Guide, but because, when the Placenta is loosened, it is of some Help in the Extraction. It is not, I confess, fo eafily taken away whole by the Hand only; but nevertheless it may thus with Care be done well, and with Safety.

ON E great and common Cause of bad Labour, is the Woman's being put upon it too early, whereby she is often much haraffed, and her Strength fo loft by unprofitable Pains, that, when she comes to be fairly and truly in Labour, her Pains, from a Defect of Spirits, cannot rise to a Height fufficient for Delivery, though the Make of the Woman and Posture of the Child should happen to favour it.

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Hence

Hence the Labour, which otherwise might have been an easy and natural one, is rendered difficult, and Art is forced to supply the Place of Nature.

THE Midwife sometimes cannot distinguish Genuine Pains from Spurious ones. They are often mixed together, and many Women have such for more than a Month's Time before their Delivery, as much resemble true Labour. Here a Midwife, being sent for, shall frequently, without proper Enquiry, That by the Touch I mean, encourage these Pains by Hot Suppings, Clysters, Cordial Medicines, a warm Room, &c. and so bring on untimely Labour, to the great Hazard, and sometimes Loss of both the Mother and the Child.

No Woman whatever should be put upon her Labour before the Os Tincæ, or Inner Orifice of the Womb, dilates and opens itself. I have been often call-

ed in at the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Month, when the small Efforts, Nature has at that time made, and the Spurious Pains have been fo far heightened by attempting to bring on the Labour, that the Mouth of the Womb has been fo much dilated, as to give an easy Admittance to my Hand. Yet, there being no Flux from the Uterus, I always chose rather to quiet my Patients by proper Anodynes, and order them to keep their Beds, &c. by which Means they have gone their full Time, and been at last happily Delivered. This should ever be done when there are no Floodings, Convulfions, or other threatening Symptoms, which call for a speedy and immediate Delivery.

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CHAP. IV.

Of FLOODINGS.

a Separation of the Placenta, either in Whole, or in Part, from the Uterus. As both the

Veins and Arteries of the Placenta are supposed to inosculate with those of the Uterus, it is plain to every Capacity, that their Separation must necessarily be sollowed by this Discharge, and that it cannot be stopped till the Mouths of these Vessels are contracted, which cannot be, as long as the Womb is distended with its Contents. So that at what Time soever of Pregnancy a Woman happens to be afflicted with Floodings, she must be Delivered; especially if they come to any great

great Degree, and, as for the most Part it happens, the Mouth of the Womb is dilated; that is, if it will easily receive two Fingers. Nothing in this Case but Timely Delivery, by which, e'er it be too late, the gaping Vessels may contract themselves, can promise the least Sasety.

FROM the Want of This many fatal Hamorrhages have happened, in which near the whole Mass of Blood has been exhausted. Few Midwives are sufficiently apprised of this unhappy Symptom, which calls loudly for the best Advice and Assistance, as being a Rock on which many of the Sex are lost.

ry frequent, even when the Delivery is compleat, and Nothing remains behind. This may proceed from separating the Placenta too hastily, from the Patient's being much heated in a long and hard Labour, from the Blood's being rendered

too hot and thin by Volatiles, and other strong Medicines, given in Labour, in order to support the Spirits, or from a very fanguine and Pletboric Constitution, as likewise from too great a Laxity or Relaxation of the Fibres. I say, that Floodings may, and oftentimes do, happen when Nothing is left in the Womb. But when there is either a false Conception, or Part of the Placenta remaining, Nature will doubtless endeavour to expel it, and This must of course force the Blood out of the Vessels, whose Orifices are not yet closed. They are also occasioned by long and hard Labour. The Fibres of the Womb are thereby in a great measure grown unelastic, and deprived of their Tone or Power of Contraction. So that much Room remaining within, whilft perhaps the Os Tincæ is streightened, large Clods shall be formed, which will necessarily occasion Distention and Pain. One Clod again being expelled, the Veffels

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Ir, from more than ordinary Pain, it is reasonable to suspect any thing remaining, it is proper to make Enquiry by the Touch, and, if possible, to setch it away. If This cannot be done, that is, if there is no Dilation of the Os Tincæ, then proper Medicines are to be given, in order to sacilitate the Expulsion, and stay the Flux, whilst the Woman is kept cool.

When the Discharge is very great, it requires the most immediate Assistance, or the unhappy Woman, now just Delivered, freed from her Pains and Fears, and slushed as it were with new Life, will be infallibly lost. In this Case I never Bleed, but lay the Patient very cool, almost naked, and cover her Body with Cloths dipped in Water, or Vinegar and Water mixed. This I say must be done when the Flux is extremely violent, and without

without which the Woman's Life would be lost in a few Minutes. It at once conftringes and restores the Tone of the Fibres and Vessels of the Uterus, at the same time that it abates the too violent Motion of the over-heated Blood. I beg Leave to recommend this Method, as what I am consident has saved the Lives of great Numbers in the Course of my Practice.

I HAVE given several Cases of this fort, which I hope may prove sufficient to engage Female Practitioners to send for superior Assistance, when the Matter becomes too difficult for them. Daventer considers the Delivery of a Fætus in the Case of violent and dangerous Fluxes, as the proper Business of a * Man Midwise. And Dr. Mowbray, in his Female Physician, having given a short, but distinct, Account of Fluxes of Blood, and considered three several Causes of that

Symptom, and the Danger attending it, adds *: "Wherefore it is, that the re"fpective Cures of these sundry Cases
"belong only to the ablest Physicians;
"and that most properly to him, who
"professes and practises Midwifery;
"because, when Medicinal Helps fail,
"and cannot prevent Missortunes, he
"will at least know best then, how to
"compose and mitigate them, by De"livering the Woman, if Necessity so
"require."

Those, who want further Information on this Subject, may confult Dr. Chamberlen, Daventer, Dionis, and Others, who have treated fully of it; and therefore I proceed to give an Account of some remarkable Cases and Observations that have occurred to me in Practice, and which I hope will prove serviceable and advantageous to all Such, as make Mid-wifery their Profession.

^{*} Sect. 3. Chap. XIX.

CHERON PROPERTY.

CHAP. V.

Containing a Variety of CASES, which illustrate and confirm the METHODS above laid down.

CASE I.

An Untimely Dilatation of the Os Tincæ Restored.

to a Woman, who had very narrowly escaped with Life in some of her former Labours. I sound the Mouth of the Womb fairly dilated, even enough to have allowed of the Hand, a large Water gathered, together with other usual Symptoms of a natural Labour. Her Pains indeed were but short and impersect; nor did they increase by the Administration of Warm Suppings; upon which I ordered

Ordered her to Bed, to take a Composing Draught, and keep quiet. Her Pains by this Means were wholly abated, the Os Tincæ in some measure contracted itself, and she went three Weeks longer, which was her Full Time; and then had a kind and speedy Delivery.

HAD there been Floodings, or a Tendency thereto, Faintness, Convulsions, Fits of any Sort, or any other bad Symptoms, I would have immediately broke the Membranes, and, taking the Child by the Feet, Delivered the Woman.

CASE II.

A Couple of Infants lost by delaying Delivery.

A Woman, who had been twice or thrice Delivered by a Man, of Children that always Presented with the Head, which the Operator took a fatal Freedom with, viz. using the Hook, at last sent for me early in Labour. I found the

K

Mouth

Mouth of the Womb fairly dilated, a large Water gathered, and the Pains true and good, whereby the Membranes were foon broken. The Child lay in a right Posture; but, the Head pressing directly upon the Os Pubis, it made no Advance, though after a fair Trial of an Hour's Pain, which was good, and not flow. I then proposed to Deliver her, giving Hopes at the same time of the Child, and promising to use no Instrument. But This was not yet allowed of, and fo I was forced to defift, till at last the Woman began to grow weak, and the Pains abated of their Force. I had then Leave to act as I should think fit. Upon which I put the Woman into a proper Posture, viz. with her Hips raised higher than her Shoulders, and, gently paffing my Hand into the Womb, I took the Child by the Feet, and so Delivered her in two or three Minutes, with great Ease and Safety; but the Child was already dead by the long Delay. I attended her also

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in a second Labour, which proved just the same. Upon which I declared, that it was my Opinion the Child might have been saved, had I been allowed to Deliver her some Hours sooner, and as soon as the Membranes broke, or rather, as soon as the Mouth of the Womb would admit my Hand. I had then a Promise both from herself and her Friends, that, if ever I happened again to attend her in the like Case, I should proceed as my own Judgment directed. Accordingly, I was called a third time, and then in the same Manner Delivered her easily and happily of a Living Child.

This Woman had a large Pelvis, sufficient Room between the Os Pubis and the Process behind, but the Curve greater than usual, by which the Force of the Pains only directed and pressed the Child upon the Os Pubis; so that it did not sall over the Process. But the next Child she had being very small, in a right Po-

fition, and the Pains strong, from her being sirst seized with them, the Head sell over the Process, and was forced into the World by the Strength of Nature, without any Assistance; so that she was Delivered even before a Messenger could be dispatched to me. This may be a Caution to every Practitioner not to make a positive Prognostic, that a Woman, who hath several Times been obliged to make Use of the best Assistance, can never be Delivered without it.

CASE III.

A Child Presenting with its Head, Extracted by Art, after a long and fruitless Waiting for the Force of Natural Pains.

A GENTLEWOMAN of a very weak Constitution fell gradually and naturally into Labour. The Mouth of the Womb was easily and fairly dilated, a good Water gathered, and the Child Presented

Presented right; but her Pains could not by any Encouragement be raifed to fuch a Height as to bring the Child into the World, or, indeed, break the Waters, whilft she could hardly be supported from Fainting, though there was not the least Loss of Blood to occasion it. Finding the Pains could not by Oil of Cinnamon, (which, by the way, is one of the best Medicines that can be given in this Case) and other proper Remedies, be brought to give fufficient Force, or Stimulus, I thought it necessary to have recourse to Art, and so with great Ease, as well to my Patient as myself, passed my Hand, and in one Minute Delivered her of the Child. I likewise Delivered her, at different times, of three more Children in the fame Manner, but did not wait fo long as at first. For, finding the Parts would allow of it, I made no Delay, but Delivered her as foon after my Arrival, as I could make the necessary Preparations, and ever with Safety both to K 3 herfelf

herself and Children, all which are now living.

THE Pelvis of this Woman was large, the Process and Curve very small, the Bones smooth and well made, the Os Pubis well shaped for Child-bearing, and much more Room between That and the Vertebra than we generally find. With those Advantages, and that of the moderate Size of her Children, the Operation was easy.

CASE IV.

An Infant Advancing with its Head, and Born as far as the Shoulders, but Sticking there, Extracted.

I N 1712 I was called to a Woman, who had lain Ten or Twelve Hours with the Head of the Child born as far as the Shoulders. But the Midwife, being ignorant, and the Pains going off, suffered the Infant to stop there. I immediately slipped my Fingers under the Arm-pits of

On MIDWIFERY. 151 the Child, and so presently Delivered her, with little or no Difficulty.

THIS is a Case which rarely happens; since, for the most part, the Pains alone are sufficient to bring a Child so far advanced into the World; and sew Midwives are so ignorant, as not to give some Assistance.

CASE V.

A Woman with her Belly hanging down for far, as to hinder the Hand from being passed into the Womb, how Delivered.

I Was called to a Woman who had been long in Labour, and in very great Pain. The Midwife very frankly and honestly told me, that she could not possibly come at the least Knowledge of any Part of the Child, or the Mouth of the Womb. Indeed it could not well be otherwise by the common Enquiry. For I found her Belly, the Body of the Womb hanging quite over the Os Pubis, like a

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large Bag extending itself almost down to her Knees; so that though her Pains were very great, yet there was not the least Direction to the Vagina. I put her into a proper Posture, with her Shoulders laid low, and her Hips raised high with Pillows. This done, her Body was held, or as it were thrust, up to her Breast. I then passed my Hand easily into the Womb, the Os Tincæ being sufficiently dilated, and, by Turning the Child, Delivered her in a few Minutes. But the Bones of this Infant were, I think, more brittle than ordinary. For fetching down one of the Arms with my Finger, it snapped like a Piece of Glass. This Accident, I freely confess, has three or four times happened in the Course of my Practice; and it is carefully to be guarded against in Fetching down the Arms, though they are cured without any Difficulty, because the Bones in this Infantile State are extremely foft and Cartilaginous, and fo will easily yield a Callus. This Woman

was so well, that at the End of Three Weeks she walked about Four Miles to me, with the Child in her Arms, in order to have it dressed.

In this Case had the Woman been in full Strength, the Pains strong upon her (which when I was called was far from the Case.) If at that Time, I say, she had been put in a proper Posture, and her Body thrust up, the Method I took in the following Case, the Child lying right, it would probably have been a Natural Birth.

CASE VI.

Another Instance of the Same.

S OME Years after this, I was called to another Woman, where the Case was nearly the same; her Belly hanging down like the former, and her Pains having very little Force on, or Direction to, the Vagina. This Woman I laid on her Side, and only ordered her Body to

be pressed or borne up in her Pains, which were true and strong. Upon which the Child pitched right for Birth, and the Woman was happily Delivered in about an Hour's time.

CASE VII.

A Gentlewoman who died by Flooding, occassioned by her Delivery being delayed.

THE Wife of a Clergyman, in the Seventh Month of her Pregnancy, had a sudden Discharge of some Ounces of Blood from the Womb, I, being consulted, told her the Nature of the Case, and the Danger of it. I advised her to Bleed at the Arm, and ordered her some Styptic and Astringent Medicines; telling her at the same time, that, if the Flux should return in any considerable Degree, she must, if possible, be Delivered. This seemed very strange both to herself and her Husband. I then endeavoured to give them a true Knowledge of the Danger, that,

that, when there should be a Return of the Diforder, I might be the more readily allowed to do what should be necessary. Indeed, beyond my Expectation, the remained free from the threatning Symptom, till within a few Days of her Account; but then it returned with greater Violence, and without Pain. I was fent for at Four Miles Distance. When I came, the Flux was seemingly stopped, that is, it did not continue to appear, though the Vessels were then bleeding. For the Blood, coagulating, had for a while obstructed and blocked up the Passage. I declared that she could be safe only by Delivery, which should be performed immediately, in case the Mouth of the Womb would allow of it, which I hoped it would, and accordingly defired I might be permitted to make the Enquiry; but That was not granted me. I then pronounced the Danger, and made a positive Prognostic, that, if the was not Delivered immediately, or at the very next Return

of the Flux, it would afterwards be too late to attempt it. For the Flooding in course is still greater, as the Placenta is more separated. I was defired to attend, and promised upon the next Appearance, that I should have Liberty to do as I judged proper. I waited for two whole Days, and was then obliged to go fome Miles Distance upon other Business. I returned in less than three Hours, but too late. For during that time she was seized with a violent Discharge. From the vast Quantity of Blood that was loft, the flow creeping Pulse she had, and the Faintings and Convulfions which had feized upon her, I declared it now impossible for her to live, how happy foever I might be in the Operation, should I attempt it: Which yet, after this Prognostic, at the joint Request of herself, her Husband, and Friends, I could not well refuse; nor indeed could I otherwise have answered it to my own Conscience. The Os Tincæ was fully dilated, and the Child but small; so that, without

without the least Difficulty or Resistance, I took the Child by the Feet, Delivered her in less than one Minute, from the Time of my approaching her Bed-Side, of both Child and After-Birth, which lay wholly separated, and the Child consequently Dead. I indeed expected her Death every Moment, but she lived two Hours, and then expired. It is very plain, this unhappy, wilful, Lady was lost by not being Delivered sooner. And, as Flooding is a Rock on which many of the Sex are cast away, I shall give a few more Instances, in order to warn them of the Danger.

CHAP. VIII.

A Woman who died by Flooding, .in Labour.

I Was once called to a Woman, who at the Time of her Account fell into violent *Floodings*, with little or no Pains. When I came, she had lost a prodigious Quantity of Blood; and, the Mouth of

the Womb being fully dilated, I introduced my Hand, and, taking the Child by the Feet, Delivered her in a few Minutes with great Ease, and without the Loss of any more Blood in the Operation. She had, notwithstanding, frequent Faintings, though all that could possibly be given to repair the Loss, and support her, as Chicken-Broth, Sack-Whey, proper Cordials, &c. were administered. But they all proved to no Purpose, for in about fix Hours time the expired.

CASE IX.

Another Instance of the Same.

OON after this, I was called to ano-I ther Woman, nearly in the fame Case, whom I treated in like Manner. She too had Faintings every two or three Minutes to a very great Degree, and oftentimes, indeed, seemed quite gone. I confess, I wholly despaired of her Life; but, being of a ftrong and healthy Constitution.

On MIDWIFERY. 159 tution, the had the good Fortune to recover.

THOUGH I could find no Means of Saving the Woman mentioned in the foregoing Case, I thought it my Duty to try what could be done for This. Dr. Mowbray, who cautions the Young Practitioner against going beadlong to Work in Cases of the greatest Danger, and would have him decline the Office, because, if the Woman dies under bis Hands, be may perbaps be blamed for the errant Midwife's Faults; or, at least, be will scarce avoid the Cenfure of the Ignorant and Malevolent *: adds however, that, " be would but feldom " bave recourse to this Advice+, or fol-" low it himself, notwithstanding the worst " Consequences of the Case; since as long " as there is Life, there is Hope; which, " though never so little, he thinks himself cobliged to do what both Art and Nature " command; and rather in all Conditions

^{*} Sect. V. Chap. XII. | † Ibid.

" of Life to attempt an uncertain Cure, " than abandon the Distressed to certain . " Death, as some Politicians in Physical " Affairs commonly do, who prize their " vain Reputation above the Life of their " Neighbour." In this I heartily agree with him, having feen many Women recover, even when not the least Glimpse of Hope has appeared. After a proper Prognostic, I employ my best Endeavours; and, where my Character was established, it suffered but little, if at all, even when they proved ineffectual. Indeed where my Reputation has not been fo fecure, when I have been called too late, or the Case would admit of no Re-

Reflections, and very foul Language, by the Ignorant and Passionate, who will make no Allowance for Circumstances. This was once fince I came to Town.

lief. I have been loaded with malicious

the only Reward I received for my Labour. The greatest Consolation I have,

under this inhumane undeserved Treat-

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ment is, that the most Considerable of the Profession are frequently obliged to fit down patiently with the same, after they have acted according to the Dictates of Conscience, and the Rules of Art, and faithfully discharged the Trust reposed in them. I am resolved, however, to prefer the least Prospect of saving the Lives of Persons, whom Providence directs to my Care, before any other Confideration. I lately knew an unhappy Instance of the fatal Effects attending an injudicious Fondness of Reputation, and a mean Fear of incurring the Displeasure of Such, as judge only by their Passions and Prejudices. A fine young Lady, in Labour with her First Child, was seized with a Flooding, and the Arm of the Infant Presented itself. She immediately fent for a Phyfician, who had lately taken upon him to practise Midwifery; but was so little acquainted with the Art that he neglected the only thing necessary in that Case, viz. a speedy Delivery, by Turning

Turning the Child; and employed Reftringent or Styptic Medicines. After some Hours, another Gentleman was called in, who had the Advantage of longer Practice, and a good Character. The Lady was now very much weakened; and the Artist, apprehensive of her expiring under his Hands, or immediately after Delivery, which, indeed, but too often happens, would make no Attempt, but abandoned her to her approaching Fate. She lived feveral Hours after, and then died, the Hamorrhage continuing. I am perfuaded it will be allowed by the best Judges that, had she been immediately Delivered, her Life might have been faved. This happened at a confiderable Town in Suffolk, about twenty Miles from Ipfwich. As I have no Defign of establishing my own Character on the Ruins of that of another Man, I forbear being more particular. I hope the two Gentlemen concerned in this Tragical Case will make a proper Use of this Hint.

Hint. I received the Account from a worthy Matron, who was present during the whole Time.

HERE had the first Gentleman been an Artist, I think there is no doubt to be made but two Lives had been saved, at least the Mother's; and had the second, when he came, Delivered her immediately, it is highly probable the Lady had lived, since notwithstanding the continual Flux, which would have stopped upon Delivery, her Life continued so long.

CASE X.

A Woman who died by Flooding, Three Weeks before her Account.

A Woman, who had spoken to me to attend her, was taken within three Weeks of her Time with a small Discharge of Blood from the Womb. Upon this, as I afterwards heard, she sent for One of her Acquaintance, who, being ig-

norant of the Case, persuaded her that there was no Danger. A-while after the was attacked with a fecond Discharge, at length with a third, and then I was fent for. I found her extremely weak, and ftill Flooding, and was only told, that she was taken so that Day, and that I was immediately called in. I declared that Nothing could possibly fave her Life but Delivery; and was, indeed, in hopes that This would. The Mouth of the Womb being wholly relaxed and dilated, I took the Child by the Feet, and Delivered her with much Ease, in two or three Minutes; but, the Moment she was Delivered, she expired. I then began to fuspect that there had been some Concealment; and, taxing those who were about her with it, they readily confessed there was a much larger Quantity of Blood discharged that Day, than what they had informed me of, as likewise for several Days before they fent for me; ignorantly thinking, because she had very little Pain, that

that she was not in Labour, and that she therefore stood in need of no Assistance. But this Folly was paid for at the Expence of the poor Woman's Life.

THIS Woman had spoke to me to Deliver her; and had she, as she ought to have done, fent for me, instead of confulting an Apothecary, who gave her fome Medicines, in all Probability the had lived. For had I been called before the Os Uteri was dilated, or capable of being dilated by the Hand, that is, before it would receive two Fingers, I would have given her cold restringent Medicines, Acids, kept her col and quiet, used Cloths outwardly, dipped in Oxycrate, till the Parts would admit my Hand; or would the Parts at my first coming have admitted two Fingers, I should have Delivered her immediately; which being done, before the Loss had been so very great, in all Probability the Woman had lived, and been a joyful Mother; L 3

Mother; for the Child was living. Hence it is plain the Flux may be very great, the *Placenta* being separated but in part, enough of it yet adhering to the *Uterus* to keep up a Circulation of Blood to the Child.

CASE XI.

A Gentlewoman who died by Flooding, through the Ignorance and Obstinacy of her Midwife.

A Poor unhappy Gentlewoman, Daughter to a worthy Clergyman eighteen Miles distant from me, sent to me in a Case of Flooding. By the Account I received, I told her Brother, who came for me, that she was probably, by that time, dead. Accordingly, when I arrived, I was told that the unfortunate Lady had been dead for some Hours, and that she expired soon after the Messenger set out for me.

A LITTLE before the Time of her Account, it feems, she was taken with a fudden and violent Flooding, with a small Degree of Pain. Her Midwife told her the must wait for the Force of Nature, but fent to One for Advice, who, after the Loss of such a prodigious Quantity of Blood as she had sustained, imprudently ordered her to lose Ten or Twelve Ounces more at the Arm. Being now flattered with a small Cessation of the Flux, and ignorant of the Case, they waited for Pain, which was not then to be hoped for, but expected not Death, which to a judicious Person must have seemed unavoidable. One of her Friends, indeed, had more Knowledge than the rest, and was of Opinion that she ought to be Delivered; but the Midwife refisted, and said, That she never yet had forced a Labour, and that she would not begin then; terrifying the unhappy Sufferer, by telling her, that, if she was Delivered, she would L₄ certainly

certainly die. Thus were they infatuated, and the only Means prevented, by which she could possibly have been faved. In this Condition she lay all Night, and the next Morning, which was the Time I was fent for, the Flux returned. They had recourse a second time to their Adviser, who rashly ordered her to lose more Blood at the Arm. This was agreed to by fome Women about her, and opposed by Others. But, whilft the Matter was in debate, the unfortunate Mother fell into Faintings and Convulsions, and so expired; there happening, a little before her Death, an Expulsion of the Placenta. Thus was this poor Lady loft, in the very Bloom of Life, through the Ignorance and Obstinacy of ber Midwife.

For the most part, when the Flux is very great, the Parts are so much relaxed as to allow of passing the Hand. How far this is occasioned by the Parts being embraced,

embraced, or relaxed from Weakness in the whole Machine, occasioned by this Discharge, I must leave to the Learned; but this I can fay, where-ever the Flux hath been great and violent, I have ever found I could pass my Hand. I would not be understood, that in all Discharges this is practicable; but it may be done where it is very great and violent, which I take Leave to repeat. Now, had I been early with this Woman, even but a few Hours before, in all Likelihood, by an immediate Delivery, and proper Care, this unhappy young Woman might have been now living. Where the Os Uteri is not dilated in Flooding, I give the following Julep.

R Aq. Sperm. Ranar. vel Plantag. 3vi. Aq. Cinnam. fort. 3j. Syr. Papav. errat. 3j. L. L. Gutt. xl. Ol. Vitriol. Gutt. xv.

WHERE the Spirits are low, Tinet. Stypt. Helvet. in Vino rubro. For poor People, Vinegar and Water, &c.

CASE XII.

A Gentlewoman seized with Dangerous Floodings just after Delivery, how Preserved.

Was fent for to a Gentlewoman, who defired me to attend in the House, in order to be consulted by the Midwife; or, if the Case should require it, to Deliver her myself. When I came, I found her in small Pain, and attended by a very good Midwife, one of known Judgment and Modesty. By this Person I was informed that the Os Tinca began to open a little, whilst there were several Cloths already stained, though not to fuch a Degree as to be called Flooding; though that was much to be feared, for this Symptom, appearing early in Labour, generally threatens it. I immediately proposed the Calling in the late learned Sir RICHARD BLACKMORE, who was Physician to the Family, and lived very near,

near, and One to whom I had the Honour of being well known. This was agreed to, and Sir Richard was with us in about an Hour's time: During which, I ordered my Patient to be kept cool, and gave her Acids, and other proper Medicines, in Red-wine and Water. By Sir Richard's Prescription the Flux abated, and, the Pains increasing, Labour came on early in the Morning. The Midwife again informed me, that the Posture of the Child was exactly right, the Mouth of the Womb fully dilated, and the Waters for some time broke, the Pains being very true and strong; but added, that the Head of the Child fell no lower than it had been for some Hours before. She then defired I would take her Seat. which I did, and found all things as above-mentioned. I fat for above half an Hour, hoping for, and expecting, a natural Birth; but, finding at length that Nature was not able of herself to perform it, I had recourse to Art, and so

Turned

Turned the Child with great Safety in a few Minutes. This Lady was of a Pletboric Habit, and having been much heated by long Labour and great Pain, together with feveral warm and Cardiac Medicines, (which, as the Posture of the Child was right, were given her in hopes that Nature might have done the Work herself) in about an Hour after her Delivery, when we thought all was well, and I just about to take my Leave, she fell into the most violent Flooding I ever faw. I was obliged immediately to cover her Body with Cloths dipped in Oxycrate, changing them as they grew warm; and This for above half an Hour together. By which means the Flux at first was a little abated, and at length stopped, whilst we gave her several Draughts of cool and Acid Liquors to drink. Sir Richard, at her being seized with this dreadful Symptom, was again fent for, and happened to come in, just as the Flux was so far stayed, as to allow of taking

away the wet Cloths, and laying her dry. She was fo exceffively cold, and her Pulse so low from the vast Loss of Blood, that Sir Richard thought she was dying. But, forcing down fome warm Suppings as well as Cordial Medicines ordered by the Doctor, she was quickly able to bear Warming without a Return of the Hamorrhage. By this Method she soon revived, and is still living. Sir Richard was pleased to say, that I had steered exactly between the two Extremes: That he should never have seen the Lady alive with less cool Applications; and, at the fame time, that she could not possibly have lived with a longer Continuance of them. This Method may perhaps at first Sight be looked upon, by Some, as too harsh and desperate; but it will, I presume, be foftened in my Reader's Opinion, when it is confidered that certain Death would in a few Minutes have exhibited a much more dismal Scene.

CASE XIII.

A Woman taken with Flooding in the Third Month of a false Conception.

A WOMAN, who supposed herself to be Three Months gone with Child, was taken with a Flooding. When I came to her, I found the Os Tinca fo far opened as to allow of two Fingers, and a Substance pressing down, especially in her Pains, which were of no great Force. I foon introduced a third Finger, and by degrees so far dilated the Mouth of the Womb as to pass all my Fingers behind the Substance, so as to command it; and taking the Advantage of a Pain, which was now stronger from the Stimulus occasioned by the Irritation of my Fingers, I found it to be a firm Fleshy Substance, and so happily rid her of a False Conception.

I COULD here give many Instances of this Kind, as well as of young Miscarriages, in which the Assistance given, and Method to be taken, are pretty much the same. When there is no Flooding of considerable Loss of Blood, Nature may be allowed her own Time. But when the Discharge is great, as before mentioned, as speedy a Delivery as possible is required, whilst the Flux is to be restrained by proper Medicines, and cooling Applications.

CASE XIV.

Of the Vagina Coming down with the Head of the Child.

I Was called to a Woman, where, as foon as her Pains had any confiderable Degree of Strength, the Vagina came down with the Head of the Child, hanging far out of the Body. This by an ignorant Widwife, who was first with

her, was taken for a Water, and accordingly she had scratched and endeavoured to break the Membranes. as she foolishly thought the Part bearing down to be. A fecond Midwife was thereupon called, who immediately knew what it was, and attempted to re-place it and keep it up; but all in vain. The Head of the Child would not advance, and continued still to keep the Vagina before it, and, at every Pain, thrust it quite out of the Body. When I came, having first laid her Shoulders low, with her Hips raifed. I Returned the Part, and at the same time Delivered her with much Ease of a Living Child, in about the Space of two Minutes.

THE Midwise who was called first, and early in Labour, should have Disengaged the Head from the Os Uteri, at the same time, keeping up This Prolapsus of the Vagina by thrusting back,

and Confequently dilating the Os Uteri or Ring, as I may call it. By this Method the Head of the Child might have advanc'd and pass'd in a Natural Way. How far this had been possible when I came to her, I will not determine; but, confidering she was already much weakened, and the Pains were in some Meafure fallen off, in Consequence of that Weakness, I thought it best to take the Method I did; in which I found no Difficulty, the Woman being of a happy Make for that Operation.

CASE XV.

A Child advancing with its Feet, but stopping at the Head, how Extracted.

Was fent for to a Woman, where the Child presented with the Feet. The Midwife had gotten all but the Head, which stuck fast, and had so done for four Hours. I immediately introduced my Hand, so as to pass two Fingers into the Infant's Mouth, by M

which,

which, pulling gently at the Neck with the other Hand, and moving the Head tenderly to and fro, I Delivered her with Ease and Safety.

Hence it appears, how necessary it is that Women Midwifes should come to the Knowledge of this Particular, viz. the passing two Fingers into the Mouth of the Child, whenever the Child presents its Feet, or the Midwife is daring enough to turn it. N. B. Had the Midwife known this, or had I been with her at first, there is no Doubt to be made but the Child had been born alive; which now in course was dead from the Stagnation of Blood in the Umbelical Vessels. A Life lost through Ignorance!

CASE XVI.

A Child Extracted with the Forceps.

I Was sent for to a Woman in Labour, where the Child came right, with the Head so far advanced, and so low in the Vagina, that the Midwise had expected it every Pain for some Hours. The Pains came pretty thick and strong, but began at length to abate, the poor Woman being much weakened and fatigued. Here I introduced the Forceps, as I have before directed, and so Delivered her of a Son, who, with his Mother, is now living.

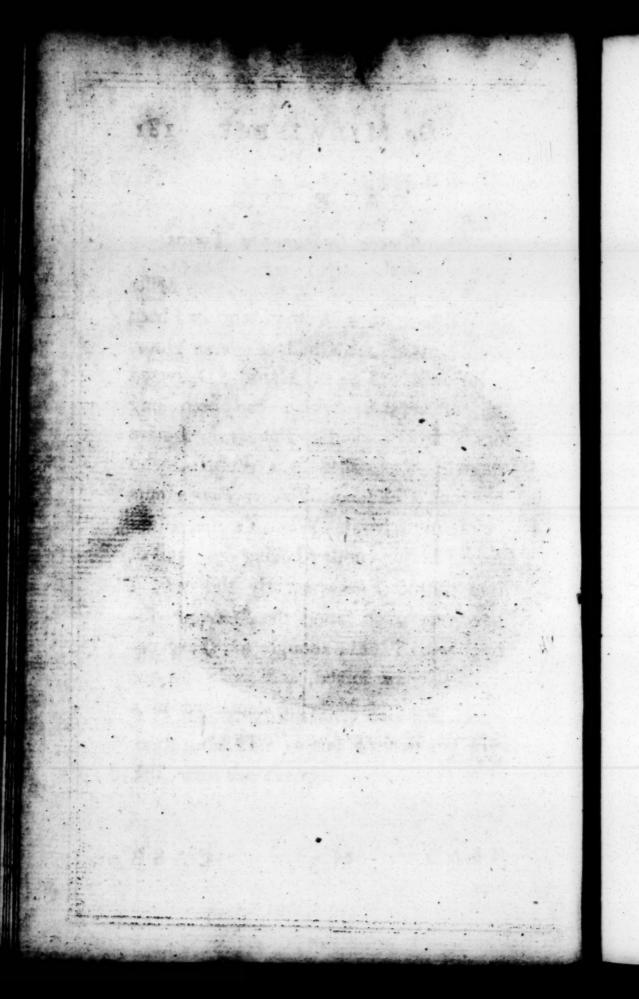
HERE a Man, ignorant of the Use of Forceps or Fillet, had with the Crochet, or some other sharp Instrument, destroyed the Child.

CASE XVII.

A Child Extracted with the Fillet.

SOON after, I was called to a Woman where the Case was nearly the same; but she being much terrified at the Thought or Name of an Instrument, I promised not to make use of one. Here I only passed a Fillet over the Head, and thereby Delivered her in a sew Minutes of a Living Child. This Method of Extracting with the Fillet is an Art known but to very sew; and I shall only observe farther, that it is not always practicable, even when the Head is far advanced: Nor should it indeed be ever attempted, but by a very skilful Operator.

This might as safely have been done, with more Ease to the Woman and my-felf, with the Forceps.



CASE XVIII.

Two Women Delivered of Twins.

WAS sent for Five and Twenty Miles Distance to a Woman who had been Delivered of one Child, Eighteen Hours before. By paffing my Hand, I Delivered her of another, which had been long dead, and a double Placenta. I have likewise been called to a Woman, who had one Child born Twenty-Four Hours before my Arrival. When I came, I Delivered her of another Living one, and of two distinct Placenta. By the way, T have very often found the Placentæ diftinct with Twins; though for the generality they are joined, and make but one Cake, each Child being contained in a separate Membrane, or Partition.

CASE XIX.

A Woman Delivered of Three Abortive Children.

I Was once called in to a Woman, who had Two Abortive Children born before I came to her. I Delivered her of a Third, and each had its different Placenta. There was nothing in the least particular in this Case, but the Mother having Three, and One of them living for the Space of twenty-four Hours, though she was but Six Months gone with Child.

CASE XX.

Of an Infant, whose Under-Jaw stuck upon the Os Pubis.

I Was defired to attend a Gentlewoman, whose Labour had hitherto been natural and free from bad Symptoms. The Pains were come to a good Degree of Strength, insomuch, that the Midwife expected a few more would

have given her the Head of the Child; but after some Expectation, it made no farther Advance, nor could it come any lower. I had been in waiting for a whole Hour before the Midwife would refign her Seat, which at last, with much Entreaty, she did; when slipping my Fingers by the Head, I perceived that the Face of the Child lay Sideways, and the Under-Jaw hung upon the Os Pubis. This with my Finger I released, and drew back my Hand, telling the Midwife exactly how the Case stood, and that a few Pains more would answer. Accordingly, the fecond or third Pain gave us a Living Child.

THIS Case I never met with, either before or since.

CASE XXI.

An Infant with its Face towards the Os Pubis, Extracted in that Posture.

Labour came on in a natural Manner. The Child presented with its Head; but not falling readily down into the Vagina, which I had reason to expect from the Violence of the Pains, I was allowed to make a proper Enquiry, and found the Face lying towards the Os Pubis. I encouraged her Pain as much as I could, and gave her the best Assistance in a common way. Her Labour, indeed, was hard and tedious; but, as I hoped for a small Advance from every Pain, she was at length happily and safely Delivered, with the Child in that Posture.

MANY Children, where the Bones of the Woman are well formed, and the Head of the Child not very large, are thus

thus born, and it may be reasonably expected, and left to Nature, when, by every Pain you find some Advantage. Otherwise, it is better to turn the Child, before the Woman's Strength and Spirits are too much exhausted, especially where there is a Flooding or tendering thereto, that is, any considerable Loss of Blood.

CASE XXII.

A Child with its Face towards the Os Pubis, Extracted by Turning.

A LADY of Distinction sent for me, whose Case in many Circumstances was like the former. The Face came towards the Os Pubis; but, the Head being directed wholly against the Bone, it did not, in any of the Pains, which were very strong, fall down any lower, but remained in the same Situation. After a sufficient Trial in different Postures, without any Advantage, I declared that there must be another Method taken, and that

The must be Delivered by Art. In this I had the joint Concurrence of another of the same Profession, who was called in upon this Occasion. The Lady now wholly resigning herself to my Care, I put her in a proper Posture, often mentioned in this Book, and by Turning, Delivered her safely, in about two Minutes, of a Living Child.

CASE XXIII.

An Infant Extracted with one Part of the Forceps only.

A LADY of my Acquaintance was in Labour, where the Child had lain very low for the Space of twenty-four Hours, in a natural Posture. After two Midwives had long attended, and found their Endeavours of no Service, and the Pains were gone off, I was sent for. Here I only passed one Part of the Forceps over the Head, and, taking the Advantage of the first Pain, Delivered her

by preffing the Head down towards the Os Sacrum; but in such a manner, as to avoid, as much as possible, any Preffure on the Mother.

THIS is not often to be done; and, to prevent any Pressure upon the Woman, I think it more fafe to pass both the Bows of the Forceps. Indeed, this is the only time I ever used a fingle Bow.

CASE XXIV.

A Child lying Loose in the Womb, and Presenting with its Head, Turned, and Extracted.

Was fent for to a Woman who fell into Labour, in a kind and natural way, with very strong Pains for Six or Eight Hours together. When I came, I found the Os Tincæ fully dilated, and a very large Water collected, and bearing in her Pains quite out of her Body. I immediately broke the Membranes, which

which I did by penetrating them with my Tent-Probe, from whence came a confiderable Quantity of Water. The Child lay Loose in the Womb, in no fixt Posture, though it seemed, if any thing, to offer the Head. But there was no Reason now to put her upon a fresh Labour, fince I found it was an easy matter to Deliver her; which I accordingly did, by taking the Child by the Feet, and bringing it forth immediately. The Child was born in full Strength, lying very easy in the Womb, and in no wife a Sufferer by Pressure in the Labour. Here the only Hindrance, or what prevented a very good and quick Delivery, appeared to be the uncommon Thickness and Strength of the Membranes; which is what I have feveral times met with.

CASE XXV.

Three Children Presenting with their Arms, Turned and Extracted.

DELIVERED a Woman three times fucceffively, where the Waters gathering, and the Pains increasing to a proper Degree, the Membranes broke, and thrust out one of the Child's Arms. The Passages and Pelvis were so large, that I found no Difficulty in taking the Child by the Feet, and so Delivered her in less than a Minute each time. The two last Children are now living: but the first had been dead some time before I was fent for. The last time. as I had before defired she would, she called me in as soon as she perceived herself to be in Labour. I found the Mouth of the Womb relaxed, and open enough to receive my Hand. I then broke the Membranes, and was immediately faluted with the Infant's Hand,

Hand, but chose his Feet rather at that time, and so Delivered her directly. I may here, perhaps, to some Persons, appear to have shewn much Haste. But, in answer to this, I must observe, that the Woman was of so happy a Make, that even in her First Labour, when the Waters had been long loft, and the Parts more compressed and streightened when the Child's Arm had been for fome time out of the Body, and the Mother much spent, she was Delivered with great Ease and Sasety. How much more Reason then had I to expect the same, with the Room and other Advantages I now had? Befides, as I really found it, it was certain that this Child would Present as the rest did. But, in case it had been otherwise, no Delivery could possibly, in such a Subject, have been more fafe and easy than This was. For the poor Woman, who in her former Labour had been much weakened by Pain, and the fruitless Endeavours

On MIDWIFERY. 191 deavours of the Midwife, who pulled with great Force at the Child's Arm,

was now as well, and as strong at the Tenth Day, as before at the Month's End.

CASE XXVI.

Two Children Extracted by the Feet after the Membranes were broke.

the Membranes of two Children were broke. For, in passing my Hand, the Infants were in such a Position, that I found a Number of Hands and Feet. The Waters had been so long lost, and the Contraction of the Parts so great, that I had some Difficulty, not in distinguishing a Foot from a Hand, but in pairing the Legs; which, when, by passing my Hand up to the Groin, I had done, I brought the first Child away by the Feet; and afterwards the Second, but with greater Ease, in the same manner. Then I gently separated a large double

Placenta, which adhered a little more than usual, and so drew it away by the two Navel-Strings.

HERE had the first Child easily been brought down with one Leg, and had I been obliged to have fought for the Other; supposing I had mismatched them, I must in course have been foil'd in my Attempts; and, at the best hazarded the Mother and Children; much more time had been required, and much more Pain to the Woman in rectifying the Mistake.

CASE XXVII.

A Woman Delivered of a Dead Foetus after the Birth of a Living Child.

LARGE Child was born, by na-A sural Pains, in about two Hours after the Mother was taken in Labour. I attended her, and introducing my Hand, as my common Practice is, into the Uterus, the Moment the Infant was born, in order to receive the Placenta, I found another Child. I then Delivered her of a Decayed Child, about the Bigness of a Fætus in the Sixth Month, and of two distinct Placenta. Now, had an ignorant Midwise been concerned in this Case, who had only taken the First Child and After-Birth, the Last would probably have been lest behind, and so either violent Floodings, or a bad Fever would have ensued; and, as the Woman was before very ill, and extremely weak, it would very likely have cost Her her Life.

This shows how necessary it is to pass the Hand after the Delivery of the Child; but This I have treated more fully in another Place.

CASE XXVIII.

A Head, separated and left behind in the Womb, Extracted with the Crotchet.

CHILD, Presenting with its Feet, happened to flick at the Head, and, the Midwife pulling hard, the Neck wholly separated from the Body, and the Head was left behind. I immediately paffed my Left-hand into the Womb; and, taking the Head in the Hollow of my Hand, I carefully introduced the Crotchet, keeping the Point all the way against my Arm, and fixed it in the Head, (which being of a globular Figure, and very flippery, is not to be done without Difficulty) and fo drew it away, diligently guarding the Point of the Hook, left it should flip and wound the Woman. However large the Head happens to be, the Crotchet, with due Care, will destroy its Texture, and Extract it. But the Knife, which Mauriceau fo much

On MIDWIFERY. 195 much recommends*, is, I think, a very dangerous Instrument; nor ought it ever to be made use of on this Occasion.

DOCTOR Mowbray, who professes to perform every thing without the Use of an Instrument, proposes in this Case to proceed in the following Manner +. " I would, fays that Gentleman, convey " my Hand into the Womb, and put " one or two of its Fingers into the " Mouth of the Head, placing my Thumb " under the Chin. For by thus taking " hold of it by the Jaw, I would Extract " it gently, and that with the greatest " Ease and Sasety to the Patient." But, with his Leave, I must take the Liberty of denying that the Head can be thus drawn away, unless the Woman is very large, or the Child very small. For the Jaw will not bear the Force required in this way of Proceeding.

^{*} Pag. 189. + Sect. 5. Chap. XXVI.

I confess, what Mowbray says, may be done in a Fætus that wants much of its full Growth; especially where there is a good Distance between the Os Pubis, and the afore-mentioned Process, which I have twice or thrice experienced, the Head being lest by the Midwise in decayed Fætus's, where the Neck hath readily separated, though Nothing but the Os Uteri, not sufficiently dilated, can stop the Head of the Child, as being at this time disproportionally large, so that the Body will easily pass where the Head cannot.

CASE XXIX.

A Woman Killed by an Inversion of the Uterus.

WAS, in the greatest Haste, sent for to a Woman Six Miles distant from me; to whom I went with all poffible Speed, but found on my Arrival, that the had been dead near half an Hour. I conjectured she had died by Flooding; but, upon asking the Question, was answered in the Negative. The Midwife told me, that the After-Birth stuck so fast in one Part, that she was not able with all her Strength to take it from her. though she had gained Most of it. Upon this I defired the Favour of feeing the Corpse, which being granted, I found, to my great Surprize, that the Uterus was inverted, and entirely out of the Body. hanging down between the Thighs, with the Placenta adhering to its Fundus, which I separated before the Midwise, N 3 and

and feveral Matrons there present, and convinced them all of the difmal Accident. This Woman, it feems, had a very good and eafy Delivery of the Child; but, That born, the Midwife pulled hard at the String, and so brought down the Uterus, which as foon as she could take any hold of, she did: And then pulling with fresh Violence, and not being deterred by the loudest Cries, the poor miserable Woman in a few Minutes fell into strong Convulsions and Deliquiums, and fo expired. Thus was a young healthy Mother cut off in the Bloom of Life, and cast into the cold Arms of Death, just as she was about to clasp her First-born in her own.

HERE had the Midwife paffed her Hand into the Uterus, immediately after the Delivery of the Child, (according to my Direction) This had been prevented, and the unhappy Woman might have been now Living. It is to be observed,

that there was here a large Distance between the Os Pubis and the Process, so often mentioned in this Treatife. The String was very strong, (which will fometimes break with small Force) and the Adhesion of the Placenta to the Fundus Uteri very great. Nor is this, with those Circumstances, to be wondered at; fince there are no Ligaments near the bottom Part of the Womb to prevent this Accident, or to support its Natural Polition.

CASE XXX.

Of Three Women who had their Vaginæ torn and broken through.

I HAVE been called to three Women, where, upon fearthing, I found the Vagina quite broken through in the back Part, by the Midwife's rudely thrusting up her Hand, in order to come at the Opening of the Womb, which in all these Subjects happened to lie very for-

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wards,

wards, towards, and, indeed, in some measure, under the Os Pubis. One of These died immediately; the Other a few Days after; but the Third, where a Finger only, or two at most, had gone through the Vagina, recovered, contrary to my Expectation; and has fince been fafely Delivered of another Child, and is, with Both her Children, now living. I was fent for to this Person by the Lady Lucking, whose Daughter I had the Honour of waiting on in her Pains, and had a little before happily Delivered.

I HAVE fince known one Person live in the like Case; but the Symptoms (as violent Pains in her Body, succeeded by a Putrid Fever, Vomitings, &c.) were fo great, that, for 15 or 20 Days, I despaired of her Life; but she being young, and of a strong Habit of Body, recovered. I confess myself at a Loss to know how the Parts, once separated, should re-unite, or how the should enjoy perfect Health and

and Ease, and be free from some Inconveniencies.

CASE XXXI.

An expected Abortion with threatening Symptoms.

DEING some Years past upon Bufiness at Ipswich, I was called by that very ingenious Surgeon, the late Mr. White, (a Person well known to several of the Principal of the Profession, and to whose worthy Father I had the Pleasure and Advantage of serving an Apprentice-(hip) to a Lady in that Town, who was about Four Months gone with Child, and feized, among other Symptoms of Mifcarriage, with a fort of Flooding. I gave her Astringents, Acids, and several cooling Medicines, together with Laudanum Liquidum, which abated the Flux; the Os Tinca not being yet farther dilated than to receive One Finger. This Method was continued, with my Attendance, by Mr. White's Defire, for about the Space

Space of forty-eight Hours; at which time she sell into true Pains, and was Delivered with Sasety.

HAD an ignorant Midwife been here concerned, she would have given Forcing Medicines, as Myrrb, with Aq. Puleg. Aq. Bryon, &c. in order to haften Abortion; which might have caused such a Flooding as would have cost her her Life, before the Expulsion could have been from the Force of Nature. For these warm Medicines would have rarified the Blood, occasioned a greater Impetus, and consequently Flooding; so that, in all those Cases, a cooling Regimen and quieting Medicines are to be used, till Nature in her own Way relaxes the Fibres of the Os Uteri; till the Stimulus be fuch as may occasion an Expulfion of what is contained in the Womb, or the Parts allow of Delivery by Art.

CASE XXXII.

Of a Lady, who died by Flooding in T.abour

Was sent for, many Years past, by the worthy and learned Dr. Beefton and Mr. White above-mentioned, to the Wife of a Captain of a Ship at Ipfwich; but, by Flooding in Labour, she had the Misfortune to die undelivered before I arrived. This Instance, however, may help to shew the Danger of Floodings, which I have before taken notice of, and the Necessity of calling in timely Affiftance.

HAD an Artist been with this unhappy Woman, before she had lost too much Blood, the Hand might have been paffed, the Child taken by the Feet, and the Woman now living; perhaps the Child also, in Case the Placenta was not wholly separated, fince, as I have said before, Part of the Placenta only, adhering, will

keep up Part of the Circulation in the Child, till it receives Air by being Born, and wants no farther Affistance from the Mother's Pulse. I am so much the more certain, that the Operation mentioned might have been performed; being informed by one present at the Labour, that the Os Uteri was dilated, and a large Water gathered. It is plain, therefore, here was one Life, if not two, lost through Ignorance.

CASE XXXIII.

A Dead Infant Turned and Extracted.

I Was sent for to a Gentlewoman that kept a Tavern in Ipswich, Twenty-five Miles distant from me. The Child was Dead in a wrong Posture, and the Mother Flooded. She was attended by no less than two Women Midwives, and a Surgeon, just then set out in the Prosession. After they had all used their Endeavours to little or no purpose, I was called

called in. When I came, I found the Woman in almost continual Faintings, and not able to bear the least Stirring or Alteration of Posture. I passed my Hand just as she happened to lie; and, the Parts being very much relaxed through extreme Weakness, I without the least Difficulty took the Dead Infant by the Feet, and Delivered her of That, and the already separated Placenta, in about a Minute's Time. I left her under the Management of Dr. Beefton, by whose extraordinary Care and Judgment she lived Six or Seven Days; but was then, notwithftanding there were the greatest Hopes of her Recovery, seized with a violent Diarrbaa, which, in spite of all the Assistance that could be given, carried her off in a few Hours.

No Doubt this Woman had lived, had fhe received the Affistance I gave her in time, and from an Artist.

CASE XXXIV.

An Extraordinary Instance of a Woman who was Delivered at the Anus.

TN 1723, I was called to the Wife of one Peter Hill, in the Parish of Stoke, by Nayland in Suffolk. The poor unhappy Woman had for Seven or Eight Days been troubled with violent Pains in her Back, and the lower Parts of the Abdomen. She having no Notion or Sufpicion of her being really with Child. from a great Imperfection of Body, which she was very conscious of, several Persons of an inferior Class in the Practice of Phyfick were called in. By These her Case was at one time taken for the Stone, at another for the Colic, &c. Her Pains were Periodical, like Those in common Labours, especially for the last Two or Three Days. At length two Midwives were called in; but they being confounded,

founded, and at a loss, (as well they might) I was fent for. Upon my coming, and making the necessary Enquiry, not being able to get the least Information from the Midwives, I confess, I myfelf was greatly furprized, and knew not by the Touch what to make of it. Having then defired a numerous Company, that was gathered together on this Occasion, to go into another Apartment, I called for a Candle, and in the Presence of the two Midwives, and three or four other Matrons, who were permitted to stay, I took in the Affistance of my Sight; but even That was too little to come at a Certainty. The Os Pubis had no Covering, Fat, or any Thing else that was natural, except the common Teguments, as they lie upon any other Part of the Body. Where the Rima Magna should have been, there was only the Appearance of a small Slit, or Aperture through the Teguments, and This without any Thickness or Protuberance, like That of the true and real Labia. Nor was there the least Sign of the Clitoris or Nymphæ to be feen or felt. This imperfect Vagina, or rather Slit, before-mentioned, was just big enough to receive one Finger, with which I endeavoured to find out the Mouth of the Womb, but in vain. For on the Hinder-part, or towards the Os Sacrum, there was no Paffage at all, whilft Forward, and under the Os Pubis, it admitted my Finger without much Refistance. At this Part, which was also very dry, there was not the least Force, Pain, or Swelling; whilst Backwards, at the Anus, there were all. The Anus was dilated to a great Degree. even enough to receive my Hand, though very thick, and much fwelled quite round. In that Part, too, there was a large Tumour which bore hard down, and even out of the Body, at every Pain.

THERE being no other possible Way to attempt Relief, whatever the Matter of

of this Tumour might be, I proposed to make an Incision into it, which to the Touch was like that of a large Abscess.

ACCORDINGLY, with the Confent and Approbation of all the Woman's Friends, and at her own earnest Request and Defire, (who declared that if she was fure she should live but an Hour, she would gladly purchase it, though at a dearer Rate than what was mentioned) I made an Aperture, with my large Lancet, into the Vagina through that Part of the Intestine which bore out of the Body; and, immediately paffing one Finger, I felt the Os Uteri dilated, and the Child's Head preffing to be born. I made the Midwives (one of which, Mrs. Smith by Name, was a very experienced Person) see and feel how all things were; then dilating the Orifice I had made in the Intestine and Vagina, with my Fingers, I through that Delivered her of a Child at the Anus, which we judged to

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be in about the Sixth or Seventh Month, with its Placenta. The unfortunate Woman being much, and, indeed, quite spent, before I was called in, I could not possibly entertain any Hopes of her Life; and, accordingly, she lived Two or Three Days, and then expired.

As to the Truth of this Account, however strange and unnatural it may appear to Some, there are Many now living who are ready to attest it. And I am very much of Opinion, that she might have been saved, had the Operation been performed sooner.

I FIND I am not the only Person, who have met with this extraordinary Manner of Birth. For Mr. Giffard's Hundred and Fifty-seventh Case is exactly the same with that here set down.

In this Case it is sometimes impossible to have the Placenta intire; but

if you extract Part of it at a Time, the Head is to be repassed immediately, and the fame repeated, till you find nothing remains: But this rarely happens to fuch a Degree; for if, before you extract any Part, you separate the Whole from the Uterus, its Texture, though but loofe, will generally be fo ftrong as not wholly to divide, but come away altogether, though not in its proper Form, which you are, as much as you can, to reduce, when you expose it to the View of the Midwife, and Women present. So that, in case the Woman should die, her Death may not be laid to your Charge, on a Suspicion of her not being a clear Woman (the usual Expression) and, that you had been deficient in the Operation.

CASE XXXV.

Of a Woman, who Miscarried through a Scirrhus in the Womb.

On the 17th of October, 1725, I was called to a poor Woman, in order to Deliver her of a Second Child. The Midwife told me upon meeting, that she had taken away one Abortive Infant Two Days before, of about Six or Seven Inches in length; but that she had lest the After-Birth, till the second Child should be born, the Head of which, she said, hay then in the Passage, but was much larger than that of the Fætus she had already taken.

I FOUND the Mouth of the Womb wide enough to receive three Fingers, with which I easily drew away the Placenta that was left in the Uterus. The Womb, methought, felt very Thick and Hard, and the Cavity of it seemed to be close

close filled up with the Cake. By feeling, or rather compressing her Body on the Outfide, I found a large hard Substance. I then put two Fingers into the Anus, and my Thumb into the Vagina, and thus grasping something, in form not unlike the Head and Neck of a Child. I declared that nothing remained in the Womb; but what to make of this hard and folid Tumour, unless it were a Scirrbus, I could not well tell. The Woman had been long before ill of a Confumptive Disorder, and being now much weakened and exhausted by her Miscarriage, in which she had lost a great Quantity of Blood, and Two Days being fpent with Torment, in waiting for another Child, she was brought so low, that she expired in about Three Days afterwards. When, at my Request, being allowed to inspect the Corpse, I found this hard Substance, as I had before suspected, to be a true Scirrbus of the Womb, in the Form already described, and weigh-

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ing, as near as I could guess, Four or Five Pounds.

CASE XXXVI.

Of a Woman who had Spurious Pains, which were put off for the Space of Eight Days, when she was happily Delivered of Twins.

A Woman, at or near the Time she expected to fall in Labour, and very big, was seized with violent Pains. She sent for her Midwise, who attended her, telling her from time to time that she judged it her Labour, and that it would in her Opinion be soon over. But her Pains at length abated, and upon this I was sent for. When I came, judging by the Account that was given me, without any Manual Enquiry, which was not allowed, that the Pains were impersect, and rather of a Spurious sort, I only ordered her a few Composing Medicines, and advised her to keep herself

quiet, and endeavour, as much as poffible, to put off the Thoughts of being yet in Labour. Her Pains by this Means went wholly off, i.e. she was as free from them as she had been for some Weeks past. Thus she continued to the Eighth Day from my being first called to her, at which time she was taken with Genuine Pains, which foon rifing to a confiderable Degree of Strength, I was again called in; for she now chose to depend wholly on my Affistance. I found the Os Tincæ fairly dilated, a large Water gathered, and the Head of the Child directed a little against the Os Pubis. So that, not falling down after many strong Pains, I chose to break the Membranes, which I judged were thicker than ordinary, by reason of their not bursting by the Force of the Mother's Throws. This I did by passing a pointed Probe between my Fingers, with which, in the midst of a Pain, I penetrated the Membranes. There presently followed a large Dif-O 4 charge charge of Water; and upon the very next Throw, with the Affistance of my Finger only, I brought down the Head into the Vagina, and then in a few Minutes more Delivered her. Immediately passing my Hand, I found, as I had reafon to expect from her extraordinary Bigness, another Child. I broke through the Membranes, and in one Minute safely Delivered her of that also: Both which might have been lost, with Danger of the Mother's Life, had her Labour been unskilfully encouraged.

CASE XXXVII.

Of the Navel-String coming down before the Head of the Child.

S OME Years past I was called to a Lady, whom I had the Honour to Deliver of several Children before. The Posture of the Child was natural, and the Head advanced a little at every Pain; but Part of the Navel-String was thrust

out of the Body before the Head. This; as much as possible, I Returned with my Pinger, and endeavoured to keep it up. Otherwise the cold Air would in all Probability, though the Labour was quick, have so far stagnated the Blood in its Passage through the Umbilical Arteries, that the Child might have died before it could have been born, and before the Air could have set its Lungs in play.

I COULD give a great number of Instances of this sort, where the Navel-String came down before the Head of the Insant; but I take one to be sufficient. And This may serve as a General Direction how to proceed in the like Case,

CASE XXXVIII.

Of a Child who died in the Birth through a had Posture, and the unfortunate Make of the Mother.

Was many Years fince fent for to a Gentlewoman, who had been long in Labour under the Hands of two Midwives. I found, as they had told me, that the Child Presented with its Head: but it did not fall down by very ftrong Pains, which had been long upon her before I was fent for, and I was then Fifteen Miles distant. I perceived I had a Living Child to deal with, and endeavoured as much as possible to fave it, but to no Purpose; for it lay with its Face towards the Os Pubis, and in a bad Posture for Turning: Which, together with fome great Disadvantages in the Make of the Mother, caused it to die in the Birth. This Delivery was performed with great Difficulty, and I was obliged

to give the poor Woman much Pain, and to be longer about the Operation than I usually am; which, together with what was previous to This, induced me to defpair of her Life. However, I immediately, as my constant Custom is in Cases of the least Danger, called in that great and worthy *Physician*, in whom the Country was happy, the late Dr. Shapcote, by whose extraordinary Care and Judgment, the Lady, contrary to all Expectation, recovered perfect Health, and has had several Children since, which are now living.

And here I cannot forbear a small Offering to the Shrine of that truly learned Man, with whom I had the Honour and Advantage of a friendly Converse, for above the Space of twenty Years; and one to whom, under Providence, many of my Friends and Acquaintance, now Living, stand indebted for their Lives. But, as my Pen is no ways equal to such a Task.

a Task, I shall desist from it, and be content to admire, in a grateful Silence, One whom I am conscious I can never. sufficiently praise.

CASE XXXIX.

Of an Abortive Feetus of between Three and Four Months, that had the Navel-String twisted Twice round its Neck.

I Was lately called to a Woman, who, being between Three and Four Months gone with Child, was seized with a sudden Discharge of Blood from the Womb. I found that the Os Tincæ would only receive one Finger, and consequently could give her no Affistance by the Hand. But by some Astringent Medicines which I ordered her, being a very poor Woman, and not able to be at the Expence of a Physician, and by keeping her very quiet, several Days passed without any considerable Loss of Blood; and then, her Pains coming on briskly, she was with the As-

fistance of her Midwise Delivered of a Fatus, and its Placenta together, the Child lying in the Membranes, which were not broken. This indeed is pretty common; but there was one thing particularly remarkable in this Case, which was, that, when I came to open the Membranes, I found the Navel-String twisted twice round the Neck of the Fatus: From whence it is highly probable, that these Convolutions of the Umbilical Chord are generally made very early, and when the Fatus is but small.

CASE XL.

Of a Woman who died in Labour, by a violent Retention of Urine.

A BOUT fifteen Years ago I was fent for, at Fourteen Miles distance, to a Woman, who had been Two Days in hard Labour; first under the Hand of one, and then of a second Midwise. Her Husband, who was the Person that

came for me, gave me fuch a bad Account of her Case, that I had much Reason to fear my Affistance would come too late. I rode as hard as possibly I could; but yet found her dead. The Account the two Midwives gave me was, that the Child Presented with the Head, and that they had all along flattered themselves, that the Continuance of the Pains would at length have given them the Infant. They were emboldened, it feems, to wait at this unreasonable Rate, because the Woman did not Flood: But Nature, being quite tired out by the long continued Torture, was forced ro fink beneath the Weight. The Midwives added, that there was fomething in this Case, which in all their Practice they had never met with before, viz. That there seemed Two distinct and large Swellings in the Abdomen. When I came to examine the Carpfe, I found it to be as they had declared, and that one of these Swellings lay above the other. At

my earnest Request, the Husband permitted me to open the Body; when I found one of the above-mentioned Tumours to be the Womb with the Child in it, and the other the Bladder prodigiously distended by the largest Quantity of Water I ever knew contained in a Human Bladder. The Women then told me, that the Deceased had not voided one spoonful of Urine for several Days together, nor indeed from her first Falling into Labour. The Infant lay in a right Posture, very low, and pressing upon the Neck of the Bladder, which was doubtless the Cause of this very great Retention of Urine. But what exquisite Mifery must this poor unhappy Woman have undergone! Whereas if they had fent for an Artist in time, he might in a few Minutes, by paffing the Catheter, have drawn off the Water, and so emptied the Bladder; and then with the Forceps, or Fillet, have Delivered her, and so snatched her from the Jaws of Death.

HERE I had a fair Opportunity of viewing the Thickness of the Uterus. Authors, I find, differ much on this Subject; Some advancing That the Womb grows Thinner as it extends; whilft Others affirm that it Thickens more and more, as the Woman approaches nearer to her-Labour. For my part, I found the Latter true: For it was, at the Fundus, and indeed in every Part, as near as I could guess, Half an Inch thick. But I am well affured that it is not fo in all Subjects. For, in taking away the After-Birth, when it adheres to the Uterus, the Hand, as is necessary, Without Side the Body, answering to that Within, plainly discovers the Thickness of the intervening Parts. And I have oftentimes found it very thin, nay the Whole, with the external Teguments, &c. has not seemed to be near the Thickness here mentioned. But this will be made more plain in the following CASE.

CASE XLI.

Of a Woman, who died through Wilfulness in not being Delivered; in whom the Womb, contrary to the Opinion of some Writers, was found very Thin.

MARRIED Woman who had not for fome Years cohabited with her Husband, had the Misfortune to prove with Child. When she found herself in Labour, she went privately into the Fields towards a Friend's House; and, as the afterwards confessed, lay there great Part of a Day, with a Defign, I suppose, either to kill, or leave the Infant behind her, for no Provision was found to be made for it. But the Posture, the Child happened to lie in, did not favour her wicked Purpose. At Night therefore she returned to her Friends, deceitfully complaining of a violent Colic, for which several Remedies were used, for the Space of Twenty-four Hours, as near as I remember,

member, before I was fent for; no body about her having the least Suspicion of her being with Child, though all were at a loss to know what was really her Case. Some supposed it to be an Ulcer in the Womb, from the great Quantity of Fætid Matter that was discharged from the Vagina. But, whilst this was in debate, I was judged a proper Person to be confulted, and was accordingly called in. When I came to make a due Enquiry, I found, (as from her Periodical Pains, the Bigness and Hardness of her Body, &c. I had reason to suspect) that she had actually a Child in her. The Mouth of the Womb being fully dilated, the Anus of the Child, for fo it chanced to he, answering to the Os Tinca. immediately received my Finger. This I declared, as also that the Child had been for some time dead, as was plain from the Cadaverous Smell, which was fo great that I could hardly bear the Room, as also from the Discharge from the Pudendum.

dendum. She impudently denied she had used the Means, and affirmed she was not with Child. This foon gained Belief with her fond Mather and credulous Friends, who thereupon very unjustly reproached me, even to a Degree of Rudeness. I infifted upon what I had faid, and begged that I might be allowed to endeavour the Saving her Life by an immediate Delivery. But a Difference arifing between the Mother and Uncle, at whose House the then was, and who would not fuffer her, on account of the Difgrace, to lie-in there, they proposed to borrow a Gentleman's Coach in the Neighbourhood, and so carry her, in the present Condition, to her Mother's.

I HAD not Rheteric enough to prevail with them to let me Deliver her, though I remonstrated to them, in the most moving Manner I could, the Danger of delaying it, and the Inhumanity of forcing her out of the House; telling P 2 them,

them, that it was indeed a fort of wilful Murder they were going to commit upon the poor unhappy Wretch. But even This proved of no Effect. For neither she, nor her Friends, would suffer me to sit down by her, or any way affift her: upon which, having first made a proper Prognostic, I was obliged to let them proceed as they should think fit. They promised however to send for me at Night, when the was arrived at her Mother's, which was about three or four Miles distant from the Place where she then was. I went home, and in my Way called upon Some of my Acquaintance, to whom I related the Case, big as it was, with Folly and Inhumanity; telling them that she would certainly die before, or at, Delivery; for she was far spent and very weak when I came first to her, and had, I believe, though she did not care to own it, lost much Blood. I went home, and expected a Call, refolving to command my Temper, and, if possible, to

fave her, as well as do myself Justice; but heard nothing from them. Next Morning, unfent for, I called at the Mother's, but found no-body at home. Then I went on to the Uncle's, whom I had the good Fortune to meet in my Way thither. He informed me that she was dead; which was no more than I expected. I then told him of the Barbarity that had been used in regard of her, but took care to fay Nothing particular that might ruffle him, because I was resolved, if I could, to Open her, or take some other Way to shew them at least Part of the Child. I well knew I should otherwife fuffer in my Character. For we have all of us our Enemies ready to wound us with Slander and Detraction, which are generally propagated with much Warmth and Eagerness. But to return. I asked the old Man and the rest of her Friends Leave to open the Corpse, which, after much Entreaty, was granted. And then, just as I had told them, we found a Dead P 3

a Dead Child much decayed, and lying in the Posture before mentioned.

HERE again I had an Opportunity of examining the Thickness of the Womb. In this Subject it was not more than (if fo much as) half fo thick as the former. But this, I presume, might in some meafure be occasioned by the great Discharge the had fustained for the two or three last Days. However this be, I am, as I before observed, well assured, it is sometimes very Thin, at least if compared to That which I at first spoke of. And this Uncertainty, in respect of the Thickness of the Womb, may probably be the Reason why Authors differ so much on this Head, every one speaking as he himself has happened to find it.

CASE XLII.

A Child Extracted with the Hook.

T TWICE Delivered a poor deformed Woman by Turning the Children, which always stuck at the Head, and died in the Birth. Both these times, though with much Difficulty, I performed the Operation with my Hand only; but the third time, on account of the Head's being much larger, and the Texture of it more firm and Offified than ordinary, and sticking at that Part, I was forced to make use of the Hook: But, as I before obferved, the Child was first dead. It is to be remarked, that Neither of these Children fell into the Passage, though all of them Presented with the Head. Indeed when the Mother is thus unhappily made, it is impossible they should. For all the Force of the Pains, and Compression of the Muscles, in this Case, only serve to direct the Head to a wrong

Point; and the Child continues so fixed in the Pelvis, that it cannot well fall down into the Vagina.

CASE XLIII.

Another Instance of the Same.

TN the Year 1714, I was called to another poor Woman, unhappily made for Child-Bearing. She had much Pain without any Advantage, the Child lying like That last-mentioned. There was no other Method to be taken but that of Turning the Child, in which I found no small Difficulty, even before I came to the greatest, viz. That of its sticking at the Head. Here, again, I was forced, the Child being Dead, to have recourse to the Hook. But these Cases are fo uncommon, that I have not had Occasion to be concerned in them more than Four or Five times, in the Course of Five and Twenty Years Practice.

THOUGH I have in some Places of this TREATISE condemned the Use of the Hook, and shewn that a Child, far advanced with its Head, is to be Extracted with the Forceps or Fillet; yet I would not be thought to advance that it ought never to be employed; because there are fome deformed Subjects, as the two lastmentioned, in whom the Bones of the Pelvis have so bad a Structure, and the Space between the Protuberance frequently mentioned, and the Os Pubis is fo very small, as to render it altogether impossible for the Head of a full-grown Child to be naturally brought away. In these Subjects, the Head cannot fall into the Vagina low enough to be taken hold of by the Forceps or Fillet; nor can it be Turned without the greatest Difficulty; and, even when it is Turned, it will certainly stick at the Head. In this Case, it cannot be drawn away but by the Hook; which will break into its Texture, alter the

the Form of it, and so render it sit to pass through that Passage, which it could never do, if it were whole.

HERE, if the Child be already Dead, the Artist is free from that Anxiety and Torture of Mind, which Hooking it alive would necessarily produce in him. But how far, when there seems to be no Hopes of Saving the Child's Life, it may be eligible and adviseable to make free with it at first, in order to preserve the Woman, or render the Operation more easy to her, I must leave to the Judgment of the Person, who is so unhappy as to be employed in such a melancholy and unwelcome Office.

Some of my Brethren, I am well affured, frequently delay the Peformance of this Operation till the poor Mother's Death discharges all farther Occasion for it. But how far this may be a right Way of acting, I shall leave Others to determine.

determine. Not to administer whatever Service we are capable of giving, is certainly a very fatal, and if I may so say, a very cruel Tenderness.

As to Monsters, there can be no Rules given. For the Operator, when this Case falls to his Lot, must act in it as his Confeience and Judgment shall happen to direct.

CASE XLIV.

The After-Birth Retained, and Extracted Five Days after Delivery.

IN the Year 1711, I was called to a Woman Five Days after her Delivery, in whom the Placenta or After-Birth was left behind, and at that time retained. I found the Mouth of the Womb fo much contracted, as but just to allow of two Fingers; but by degrees I introduced a third, and at length my whole Hand. I then perceived that the Pla-

centa adhered to the Uterus in its whole Breadth; which was the Reason there had been no Flooding, and but few of the Lochia; which Retention had caused a very unkind Sort of a Fever. I separated the Placenta from the Uterus gently with my Fingers, as I have before directed, and so brought it away in my Hand; and that without the Assistance of the String in the other, which was before broke off by the Midwise. By proper Medicines and Care the Woman, beyond all Hopes, recovered.

CASE XLV.

The Placenta Extracted Three Hours after Delivery.

I Was lately called to a Woman in Eagle-Street, two or three Hours after the Extraction of the Child, where the Midwife, trusting too much to the String, had broken it off, and then the Womb

Womb closed upon the Placenta, which was fo far separated as to occasion a great Flooding. Here I took the same Method as I did in the Case last mentioned, which is indeed the only one that can possibly be taken; but the Os Tincæ was so much contracted, that I feared she would have died under my Hands, or at least immediately after the Extraction, especially fince she had already lost a great Quantity of Blood. But, by haftening the Operation as much as I well could, the Flux entirely stopped, after the Cake was brought away, and the Woman had the good Fortune to escape with her Life.

CASE XLVI.

A Firm, Fleshy Substance taken from the Womb Six Weeks after Delivery.

WAS, about Fifteen Years past, sent for to a Woman who was seized with a Flooding at the End of fix Weeks after her Delivery. When I came to make a proper Enquiry, I found the Womb open enough to receive three Fingers, and a hard Substance bearing down. There was some Pain, or rather an Endeavour in Nature to cast out this fuperfluous Guest; but it was not of itfelf fufficient, and the Woman must undoubtedly have Flooded to Death, without the Affistance of the Hand. By stretching out my Fingers far asunder, I dilated the Mouth of the Womb much more than at first I found it, and then brought away a Firm, Fleshy Substance, much in the Form of a Turkey's Egg, and nearly of the same Bigness. The Woman

Woman was very weak; but by proper Management the recovered, and is, I think, living at this time.

I COULD give many Inftances of this Kind; but shall confine myself to one only, where the Woman had been Delivered by a Brother Practitioner. When I was called in, which was also at, or near, Six Weeks End after her Delivery, I found a Substance in the Womb, but not like That before described. For This looked like the Cafe, as it is vulgarly called, and feemed to be the Placenta of a Fatus about three Months old. There was one Thing very remarkable in it, which was, that it appeared to be stuffed full of a Gritty, Sandy Matter, like Gravel. This I have, in a less Degree, often found in that Part of the Placenta which adhered to the Wamb; the Accounting for which odd Appearance I shall leave to the Learned in the Faculty. To return then. I cannot but observe here, that if the

the Hand had been passed with Either of these Women, as I have before directed *, Nothing could have been left behind. From the Want of this Practice I have been frequently fent for, not only to Women in this Case, but likewise where a Child has remained in the Womb, when all was thought to be over. Thus Nature, relieved and quieted a little by the Birth of one Child, rests easy and contented, as it were, for the Space of a few Hours: when the remaining Pains being falfly supposed nothing but After-Pains, all is imagined to be at an end; till, more violent Complaints returning, or another Water breaking, the poor Mother fuffers a fresh Alarm, and stands in need of fresh Assistance.

But in this Case there must necessarily be separate *Placentæ*, which, as I before observed, is a very frequent Circumstance. And where it is thus, the Midwise, having

already Extracted a perfect Child and a compleat After-Birth, erroneously thinks, without making any farther Enquiry, that this is all. But, to turn back to the last mentioned Case, I would here, if the Reader will pardon me the Digreffion, presume to recommend a Piece of Generofity and Good-nature, feldom practifed amongst ourselves; and That is, not to take an unkind Advantage of a Slip of Accident that may happen to a Brother in his Practice. No Operator can always be right, at least not always fuccessful: for the utmost Care and Judgment will not always fucceed. It is to be supposed, that he with a good Intention uses his best Endeavours, because both his Reputation and Interest require it of him. Mankind in general feem to be directed, in these Cases, by the Mahometan Principles of judging, rewarding and punishing wholly by Succels. But we ought not by any means to wound the Reputation of a Brother, by

fal him. It is a barbarous, and indeed, if we rightly confider it, a very impolitic Way of Proceeding; because, since we are all liable to Errors, the Favour may one Day or other happen to be repaid with Interest.

CASE XLVII.

A Woman Delivered of Twins; the First of which, Presenting with its Head, and Bearing upon the Os Pubis, was Extracted by Turning.

IN October 1732; I was called to a poor Woman in Butcher-ball Lane, near Newgate-street. She had been long in strong Pain; the Child Presented with its Head; but, bearing hard upon the Os Pubis, did not fall lower down. I put the Woman in a proper Posture, and Turned the Child, taking it by the Feet: And, finding upon Enquiry another Infant in the Womb, I immediately broke the Membranes, and in about two

two Minutes, with very little Pain, Delivered her of That likewise, Both which, with the Mother, are now living.

CASE XLVIII.

A Child that Died in the Passage.

CEPTEMBER 11th, 1733, I Delivered a poor Woman in Fulwood's Rents. The Child Presented with the Head, but lay high, and the Face towards the Os Pubis; and, after much Pain, did not fall into the Passage. This Child I Turned, and, flipping my Hand, over its Belly, found there the Knees, and of course the Feet close together, which I brought down into the Vagina. But, the Child being large, I could not command Both Feet, so as to bring them without the Body; but was forced to pass a Fillet upon the Lowest, and search again for the other. This Child stuck a little at the Head, and, though not in the least hurt in its Neck, yet died in the Paffage, Q2

Passage, by the Time I was forced to take, in spite of the utmost Care.

CASE XLIX.

A Child Extracted with the Forceps.

DECEMBER 17th, 1733, I Delivered a Gentlewoman at Kenfington of a Living Son. The Child Prefented the Head, with the Face towards the Os Pubis. The Pains were strong; by which the Child was forced pretty low. In this Case I Delivered her with great Ease, in a few Minutes after my approaching the Bed, with the Forceps.

CASE L.

A Child Saved where the Placenta offered.

FEBRUARY 6th, 1733, I Delivered the Wife of a Tallow-chandler of a Son. She had Floodings without Pain. I Turned the Child. This Person was taken three Weeks before with the Symp-

Symptoms above-mentioned, which returned with Violence about twelve Hours before I was sent for, but with very little Pain. I found the Os Tincæ dilated, and the Placenta offered. The Extracting the First had been certain Death to the Child, which if possible was to be saved. On which account, imagining it might adhere in a small Part of it, just so as to keep some Circulation in the Child, I passed my Hand by it, broke the Membranes, and, by bringing the Child first, saved it. This should ever be done.

CASE LI.

A Woman Delivered of Female Twins, the First of which was brought away with the Forceps.

APRIL 28, 1734, I Delivered a poor Woman of two Daughters, Both with their Mother now living. The Head of one Child had lain several Hours very low; the Woman had much Pain Q3 without

without Advantage. I Delivered her of This with the Forceps; then, finding another, broke the Membranes, and, taking the Child by the Feet, Delivered her of That, then of the double After-Birth, which was more than commonly large; as were Both the Children.

CASE LII.

A Woman Delivered of a Second Child, where a Hand and Foot offered.

Gentlewoman of a Second Child, which had been long dead: The other Child was born near two Days before. The Navel-String was far out; a Hand and Foot offered; I brought down the Foot, and by that Delivered her.

CASE LIII.

A Woman Delivered of a Child, whose Limbs were of different Sizes.

OEPTEMBER 5th, 1733. I was called to a very corpulent Gentlewoman, who had been long in Labour, and with much Pain. The Head of the Child Presented, but continued to lie very high. This Child I Turned, with no small Labour and Difficulty, the Child's Face lyiag towards the Os Pubis, the Feet far out of the way, and in an ill Pofition. I first found a large Thigh and Leg, which I brought through the Os Tincæ, which lay very high, and then, fearthing for the other Leg, I found one little more than half as large as that first mentioned, I imagined, though I faid nothing, that this Leg must belong to another Child, and of Course quitted my Hold. Being now unwilling to give more Pain, by further Search, I brought down the Leg first

mentioned, as low as I could with my Fingers only, then pass a Fillet over the Ancle, by which I had the Advantage of taking the Part in a fine Cloth, and using greater Force, which here was absolutely necessary. Thus I Delivered the Person of a Living Child, to which the Legs of different Size both belonged. Here, had I not been deceived by what I never found before, I had with much more Ease and Safety, both to the Mother and Child, brought down the small Leg also. Yet was I fo happy as that the former received no Harm, and the latter suffered only an Extension of the Ancle by the Fillet, which I could not possibly pass above the Heads of the Fociles. They are Both now living, and the Child's Legs much more alike. It was observable, that one Arm, indeed all one Side of the Child, even the Face, was fuller, and the Limbs longer than the other. This unequal Distribution of Nourishment I must leave to the Learned to ac-

count for. There was too in this Cafe another remarkable Thing, viz. The Placenta adhering a little more than usual, I had an Opportunity of finding the Uterus furprizingly Thin, i. e. the Parts between my Fingers within, and my Hand without, upon her Body, feemed altogether no thicker than the Teguments near the Navel generally are; fo that it is plain the Uterus must be very thin. From this, which in a less Degree I have often found, as well as the perfect contrary, I wonder not Authors have differed fo much on this Head; undoubtedly on both Sides they found it as they have described it.

CASE LIV.

A Child Extracted with the Fillet.

SEPTEMBER 5th, 1734, I was called to a Woman in Grays-Inn-Lane; the Child Presented the Head, and lay low. Here I passed a Fillet over the Head, and by that Delivered her.

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CASE LV.

Two Women Delivered where the Buttocks offered.

I DELIVERED two Women, where the Buttocks of the Children Prefented. One was a small Child, and far advanced. There I slipped my Fingers into the Groin, and by affisting in the Pains, which were quick and strong, I Delivered her, the third Pain.

THE other Child was larger, and not fo far advanced. Here, I put the Woman into a proper Posture; viz. her Shoulders low, &c. as before-mentioned, Returned the Infant a little, and so brought down the Feet.

CASE LVI.

A Child with its Face lying towards the Os Pubis, Extracted with the Forceps.

N Christmas-Day, 1734, I Delivered a near Relation of mine, just then turned of Sixteen, of her first Child, which proved a Daughter. During the Space of a Month before, she had felt much Pain, especially in the Night, in her Back, and round her Body; and the Child bore down to closely and strongly on the Neck of the Bladder, that the Vefica could not relieve itself without much Pain and Difficulty. I was not well pleased with the Form of her Body; viz. a high, hard, Belly, which did not, even to the last, fall lower, or become more flat, as is usual when the Child is in a perfect Posture, i. e. when its Face lies toward the Os Sacrum. From this I judged that the Face lay toward the Os Pubis, which I fignified to one in my Family; and made a Prognoftic accord-

ingly, about a Fortnight before the Labour. At Five in the Morning, the Day before-mentioned, I was called to this Young Woman; who told me she was then very full of Pain, as she had been for some time before; but with this Difference, that her Pains came periodically; and that, awaking from a Slumber, the found her Linnen somewhat wet. I sufpected her Water broke, as the usual Phrase is; but, on a nearer Enquiry, it was not fo: what she mentioned being only fome Slips from the Uterus. The Os Tincæ was thin, and dilated to the Breadth of half a Crown. A foft Water gathering, the Head of the Child following close, and her Pains continuing, I declared her fairly in Labour, and gave her the proper Attendance. About Eight, the Membranes broke, and discharged a very small Quantity of Water. Her Pains increased, were quick and strong; and in about Half an Hour the Child fell fo low, that, though I found its Face turned

turned toward the Os Pubis, I was in great Hopes that Nature, with common Affistance, would have done her own Work. I was therefore very unwilling to have recourse to Art. But, after two Hours Trial, finding no Advantage from her Pains, though at every one of them the Head was more than even with the Labia Pudendi, I was forced to it. I first made an Attempt with the Fillet; but the Young Creature's Pulse began to fink, and, her Pains falling off a little, I chose to take the most speedy, as well as most secure, Method, introduced the Forceps, and Delivered her in about two Minutes. The Mother and the Child are Both now living, and in good Health.

HAD a Midwife been called to this Person some Days, not to say Weeks, before, when her Pains and Complaints began to vary, and, as is common with young and unexperienced Midwives, put her upon her Labour too early (which I carefully

carefully avoided, not so much as making an Enquiry till the Time above-mentioned) considering the Position of the Child, what must have been the Consequence? And even had a Man been called, who was unacquainted with the Use of that noble and safe Instrument, the Forceps, he must have destroyed the Child.

N. B. Mrs. Eagle, a very modest and good Midwife, was by me all the Time of the Delivery.

CASE LVII.

Another Child Extracted with the Forceps.

I Was lately called to a poor Woman in Cold-Bath-Fields, who had been long in Labour. I found the Head of the Child lying very low in the Vagina. The Midwife had for several Hours expected the Head every Pain, but, Nature being now very much spent, the Force of the Pains was abated, without any reasonable Expectation of their Return.

Things being in this Situation, I introduced the Forceps, and, within five Minutes after, Delivered her with great ease. Both the Mother and Child are now living and well.

I COULD produce about Thirty Inftances more, of the same Operation performed in this Town, with the same Security to both the Mother and her Infant; but am willing to believe These sufficient.

Now, as the great Calamity, under which so many of the Fair Sex labour, viz. the Procidentia Uteri, when it happens to a considerable degree, can be remedied only by the Pessary, I have seen and used several Sorts; but, upwards of twenty Years, have employed only that here described, which fully answers the End, and wholly keeps up the Uterus in the Pelvis, and prevents a Bearing of the Vagina out of the Body.

THEY are made of light Wood, dipped in melted Wax. I have them of different Dimensions, viz. from two Inches Diameter, to three and a half, according to the Difference of Parts. They lie easy, and better allow of the necessary Discharge, than those not perforated.

For some Years I used a Pessary, made likewise of Wood, and dipped in Wax, which was a perfect Ring, and about an Inch in Circumference; and consequently the Perforation very large. This Sort was very light and commodious. I was pleased with the Invention, and my Patients were no less satisfied with it. But at length I met with the sollowing Accident.

A YOUNG Woman, Housekeeper to an old Gentleman in the Country, came to me with a Complaint of the *Prolapsus Uteri*. The *Vagina* was turned out, and fallen about five Inches out of her Bode

I put up one of these Rings. Not being altogether large enough, in two Days it flipped from her. She then returned it herself, or with the Assistance of a Fellow Maid Servant. After a few Days she came again, and complained of a violent Heat and Pain in the Part. On a proper Enquiry, I found the Os Tince wholly received by the Ring, and swelled in the Part, which was pressed through, and below the Ring, as a Finger that fwells with a strait Ring. I then made an Attempt to take it from her, but her Impatience and Imprudence prevented me; she protesting she had rather die than allow of it.

I TOLD her of the Danger of a Mortification, &c. but the was resolute, and I was obliged to dismiss her with a Charge to lose twelve Ounces of Blood at her Arm. I gave her Sal Glauberi, and such Medicines as I judged proper for the Part.

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All This was done, with but slender Hopes of Success.

THREE Days after this, she sent for me, and professed an entire Submission to what I should think necessary. I had in this Time provided myself with a small thin Blunt-hook, by the Help of which, with some Difficulty, I brought the Ring away. This being not performed without Pain, and much Impatience on her Side, she was so loud on this Occasion, that the rest of the Family more than suspected she had been under my Hands on a more disgraceful Occasion.



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CONCLUSION.

where there has been a Necessity of using some Violence, the Woman is to be

Treated as one Bruised by a Fall. Here, as a Thing of the greatest Service, I would recommend the Wrapping of the Body round with a Sheep's-Skin, hastily slead off, and applied as warm as possible. I have for many Years past had a happy Experience of this Method, and wish I had come sooner to the Knowledge of it than I did, as having always employed it with Success. It secures the Body from all Cold, so very pernicious at this Time, puts the whole Abdomen and Loins into a plentiful Sweat, and thus, by a Consent of Parts, relieves

relieves the Womb itself, and prevents Inflammations, Obstructions, and many other Complaints that usually attend Deliveries. I find this Method much recommended by Guillemeau, an old French Author; nor is it of such little Significancy as Dionis * seems willing to make us believe.

HE tells us, that Mr. Clement applied one to the Dauphiness: that "the Sheep "followed the Butcher into the Room, and came up to the Bed-Side, which furprised the Ladies, and put them into a very great Fright." But how does this unlucky, not to say unlikely, Accident, which may easily be prevented, make any thing against the Practice I here recommend? Mr. Dionis, however, assured us, that "Mr. Clement never used this Method afterwards, because it was thought it did more Harm than Good."

Midwifery, p. 261.

On MIDWIFERY. 261 But doth not offer any Reason for this Supposition.

Thus have I delivered what I had to say on the Subject of MIDWIFERY. Nor will the Plain Dress in which these Lines appear, I hope, prove any way prejudicial to the Matter; since Fast and Experience will always be thought preferable to Hypothesis and Conjecture; and Truth, at least to all judicious Persons, appear most agreeable in its Naked Simplicity.

I HOPE it will be thought that I have been plain and open enough to answer the grand Defign of this Treatise; and shewn how the Art, which I profess, may be exercised with more Security to the Lives both of the Children and their suffering Mothers. It it with Pleasure that I find the most shocking Accounts, here given, have produced a good, and indeed the only intended Ef-

fect; that the Perusal of my Book has inspired several worthy Midwives with a due Sense of the Difficulty of their Work, and put them upon calling early for the Assistance of the Author and Others. I thought myself obliged to mention this Particular, not only as a Proof that the Instructions here laid down are Rational and Safe in Practice, but likewise as a just Acknowledgment of the modest, judicious, and conscientious Conduct of those Gentlewomen.

But before I take my Leave of this Subject, if my Junior Brethren, and the Gentlewomen in the Practice of Midwifery, will excuse me the Freedom, I would advise, and endeavour to influence them to behave both in Words and Action, with all imaginable Tenderness to Such as fall under their Care. Their Pains, both in regard of the Mind and Body, are at that time very hard upon them, and their Condition calls for the softest Manner

in the necessary Assistance; especially where a Child requires Alteration of Posture, &c. And This as well with the Poor as Others. For to me Nothing feems fo obdurate and inhumane, as that a Fellow-creature should have her Life loft, or indeed hazarded, as is, I am afraid, too often done, because she has not the Happiness of being enrolled in the Lift of Fortune's Favourites. For my own part, I can fafely affert, and that with no small Satisfaction of Mind, that I never once let poor Women lie one Moment in Pain to fecure my Reward, but ever hastened to them, and gave them the best Affistance I was capable of, as foon as I could be released from Those with whom I was first engaged. I would not, however, be understood to excuse Such, as are able, from confidering the Merit and Labour of the Artist in a proper Manner.

Superiors, or censure any Person, and hope I have not here offended any one. Every Man is to judge for himself. This is only a Declaration of my own private Sentiments, and an Account of my own Practice, which I doubt not will agree with by far the greatest and most experienced Part of my Profession. And I even flatter myself with the Hopes of Pardon from the Few, who may happen to dissent from me.

SINCE the Publication of my First Edition, I have had the Pleasure of instructing several Gentlemen in the Art; and among others, besides the Gentleman, whose Letter I have inserted at Length, Dr. W. Weltden, Mr. Smither of Reading, and Mr. Philip Haste, jun. of Coggeshall in Esex.

